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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

January 2008

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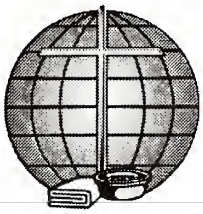

THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST

MONTHLY PLANNER

January 2008

RETIREMENT HOMES MONTH

This calendar is provided for you to fill in your own personal denominational meetings/schedules. We have highlighted some regular holidays/special days for you.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 RETIREMENT HOMES SUNDAY	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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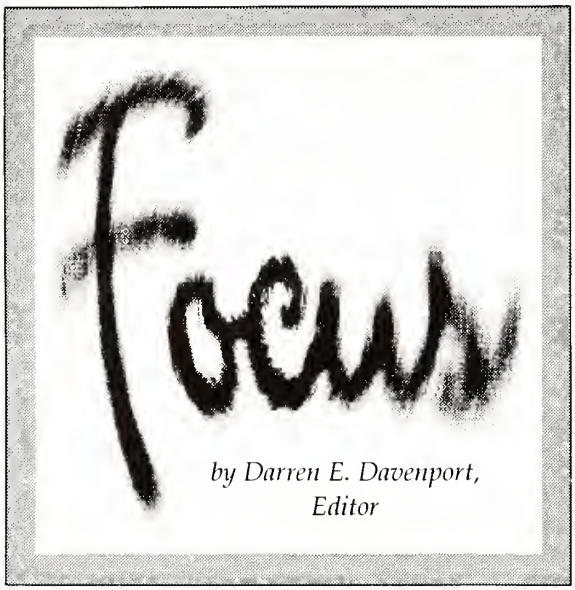
POWER VERSE

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest (Matthew 9:38).



A Thankful Heart in the New Year

A new year is now upon us. Think of all the opportunities. Think of all the things we wished we had done last year. Think, also, of all your many blessings. You know, even in our toughest times, we have so much for which to be thankful. I'm thankful, for one, for my wife, my two stepsons, and my nephew. Next to God, my life revolves around them. I love them with all of my heart. I don't believe they can even imagine! I don't have any children of my own, but I have learned—with much heartache and difficulty—that God has blessed me with the family for which He wanted me to be a part. I believe my family is Heaven-sent, and, for this, I will thank and praise God.

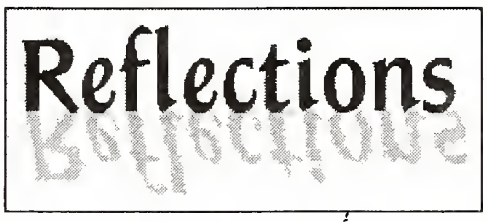
Anyway, as the hymn goes, "Count your blessings, name them one by one." I believe it just may surprise you what the Lord has provided. Be sure to save a significant place for God in this new year full of possibilities. Have a blessed new year!

I welcome your comments, criticisms, and/or suggestions. You may e-mail me at <editor@fwbpress.com>.

We Must Remain Steadfast

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

Another Christmas is past and a new year has begun. As with each of our years, there will be challenges and hurdles to overcome. Attacks upon the Christian faith will continue, and perhaps increase. During the past year we read with a sense of unbelief regarding the continual redefining of traditional marriage, the demands of the gay rights movement, the redefining of moral values, the removal of the word "Christmas" from the ads of some of the major departments stores, and in some instances the rewriting of American history.



These attacks did not suddenly come into play. Like termites eating away at the foundation of a building, there has been a gradual eroding of moral values and traditions that have been a major source of America's strength. We are fooling ourselves when we think that removing the Ten Commanments from the walls of our classrooms and public buildings, not allowing prayer and Bible reading in our public schools, dropping the word Christmas from public view, does not matter. A society becomes softened to the idea that the practice of immorality and indecency by many justifies it by all.

Christians often seem unconcerned about the events that are taking place in our society. Sometimes we wonder, "What can I do in defense of Christian faith, the truths of the Bible, and our Judeo-Christian beliefs?" We must first stand firm and not waver. We can express our beliefs and convictions. It is also important to keep up with the trends and news that impact our lives, our families, and our church. In writing to the Ephesians concerning the walk of the believer, the Apostle Paul advised them to "...walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise" (Ephesians 5:15). We must be aware of our surroundings. We cannot afford to stick our head in the sand, fearing to face reality. Are we not obligated to keep abreast of events that may or may not impact our lives, as distasteful as they may be?

Jesus warned His followers about the hatred the world would have for them, just as He was hated and despised. There are things that bother and disturb us today, and indeed they should if we are truly living for Him. In next month's "Reflections," we will deal with more specifics regarding the positive results of standing steadfast in the faith.

"GO...TELL THE STORY" IN THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

by Bobby R. Taylor

(This sermon was delivered at the Central Conference on November 8, 2007 at Free Union Church, Walstonburg, NC.)

It is always a humbling experience to stand in a pulpit to break the Bread of Life and feed God's people. With that in mind, I would like to share with you an experience I had many years ago. One Sunday morning, I spoke on God's love and His directions. I was drawing from the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 5:43–48. In this passage of Scripture, Jesus makes reference to the publicans—you know those tax collectors in the New Testament, who were hated by all, but loved by one another. Well, I had prepared, I had prayed, I spoke boldly the proclamation of truth, but for one thing—throughout the whole sermon I referred to those publicans as republicans. So I humbly ask this morning, that you pray for me, and forgive me when I err.

Text: Acts 1:6–8

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? 7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. 8 But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

First, let me say, one would think the disciples would have everything figured out by the time Christ was nearing His ascension, but we find them in verse 6 asking Him about the restoration of the kingdom to Israel. The disciples had spent three years sitting under the Master's teaching and training. He had told them of the things to come and yet they still missed the message. But things were about to change and they would understand; their role was to work, not rest; suffer, not triumph. The great promise before them was spiritual in nature, the power of the Holy Ghost; and, their call was to bear witness for Him, not yet to reign with Him.

Our text for today indicates that Christ has given power to His Church to "Go...Tell the Story." Before Christ, the people gathered in the temples. There they learned, worshiped, gave offerings, and offered sacrifices. With Christ's death and resurrection, church meant something different. Church was no longer a place to go to meet God. Instead, it was the group of people who made up the family of God, and the body of Christ (ETB, p. 1246). This was a paradigm shift, and a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. Sometimes we fail to remember Jerusalem was a city of unrest, which resulted in rampant political and religious strife. There were constant conflicts between governing Rome, temple leadership, and militant groups like the Zealots. In all this chaos, God moved with His mighty power, and gave to the world the blessing of eternal life through His Son; in accepting Him, we became His children, and His church.

As we look at the New Testament, it speaks of a church, which is beneath the power of the Holy Spirit; and it is a loving church, and a church with a directive, which is to present God's redemption to the world.

I. Christ indicated the church would be given power to be God's instrument to carry salvation to the world, for He said, "ye shall receive power." We are to go as His witnesses, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. To me that translates that we must "Go...Tell the Story." We are directed to carry the message of hope into the entire world, wherever humanity is, and tell them the Good News of Christ, for we serve a risen Savior.

For the church to be God's instrument in the world, it has to go in the power He has given. It must follow the directive, and it must have the support of its people, because we, the people, are the church. We, as God's church, must have a vision; we cannot be God's instruments if we are only introspective, if we spend our time looking at our "oneness." Surely God wants His people to grow in grace, understanding, and commit-

ment, for Jesus said, to Simon Peter, "Feed my lambs," and again He said, "Feed my Sheep" (John 21:15–16).

God wants the church to minister to all His children, from the youngest to the oldest, that they might be nurtured in His Word, that they might grow in faith, that they might be comforted, that they might be lifted in spirit, that they might bear witness of what God has done for them.

We read and witness this about the early church; its actions are recorded in the book of Acts. The people ministered to one another, caring, supporting, teaching, praying, uplifting; and through this they were compelled to "Go… Tell the Story" of God's redemptive love. We, as God's people, God's church, must exemplify the characteristics of the first church: it was a believing people, a praying people, a caring people, a sharing people, a worshiping people, a forgiving people, and a seeker of the lost.

As we look at the example given at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, the directive is given; listen to the proclamation as found in Luke 4:17–19:

[17] And there was delivered unto Him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, [18] The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, [19] To preach the acceptable year of the Lord (OT Ref. Isaiah 61:1–2).

This is the "Good News": The mighty power of God is moving—anointing, preaching, healing, delivering, recovering, liberating, and presenting the day of salvation.

II. As we look at the church historically, it seems to have had the most impact through the centuries when it had a missionary vision. Throughout its history, the church seems to have grown most when it had been concerned for others. Jesus told His disciples to go into the world. They began in Jerusalem, and then moved to Judaea, to Samaria, and then to the outermost parts of the world. As they carried God's message forward, the church grew—men, women, boys, and girls were brought into God's Kingdom. Jesus said, "…I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32).

III. As we look at the contemporary church, we see it has power when it has proper motives and understanding. Sometimes people misunderstand our motives if we fail to tell the story properly.

Let me illustrate with this story:

A couple prepared to go out for the evening to celebrate the wife's birthday. A taxi arrived, and as they walked out of their home, the cat ran back inside. Not wanting their often rowdy pet to have the run of the house while they were away, the husband ran back to chase the cat out. Not wanting it known that their house would be empty, the wife told the taxi driver, "He's just going in to say goodbye to my mother." Soon the husband hopped back in the cab and apologized for taking so long. "Stupid old thing was under the bed," he muttered. "I had to poke her with a coat hanger to get her to come out!" Certainly a misunderstanding of motive; let us look at proper motives.

(A) Our first motive comes to us from the love of Christ. We love because "he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). We are properly loved; therefore, we are able to love others. We have the command to be the extension of God's love into the community and the world, because we have experienced God's love through Jesus Christ, through God's great sacrifices for us.

(B) Our second motive is the commission we have from Christ. One translation of the Great Commission from Jesus is, "as you are going, you will be teaching, you will be preaching, you will be baptizing." Jesus assumed that His disciples would be going. We have a commission from Christ to share the Good News with other persons, no matter where we see them and no matter their condition.

(C) A third motive comes from our awareness of need. Wherever we see men, women, and children in need, we are to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. As we follow His example, we will meet the needs of others, whatever their need might be.

(D) A fourth motive is to be of service, as our Lord was. Jesus said, the greatest of all is the "servant of all" (Mark 9:35).

"And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:44–45).

We must seek to serve wherever we are and whenever the opportunity arises. There are times our human nature says to us, wait until we get here or there. This means that sometimes we are led into areas we might not have chosen, having to get our hands dirty, building, restoring, feeding, clothing, and other areas of service we are blessed to address. The Christian faith is a "cross" like way of living. The real Christian faith is not taken back by concerns, but is concern by reaching down to where there is human need. We are called not merely to look, but be "doers of the word" (James 1:22).

We do not have to be professional holy persons to serve God. We can serve God through whatever vocation we have in life, if we are willing to "seek first the kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33). Because I used the phrase, "professional holy persons," let me share this about ministry. I found this quote to be a grounding resource.

Robert C. Shannon wrote the following in Pulpit Digest in the December 1974 issue: *It is the occupational hazard of the ministry, that when we handle holy things, they become common place, and the moment they become common place, they cease to be Holy* (12/10/1974).

Ministry is not for a selected few star performers, but is a community of faith serving the one who is the Bright and Morning Star—Christ, the Light of the world. You and I are called, Paul says, "...for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12 NASB).

As we share all of our gifts, whatever they are, we seek to minister in the name of Christ. Every single Christian in a congregation is called into ministry. Each has a ministry. All have gifts and there is a great diversity. We must train and challenge disciples as Christ did to "Go... Tell the Story." William Powell Tuck said, "The Church indeed, exists by mission. Whenever we lose our sense of mission, we have lost our reason for being. We will be empowered by God to take the light into the dark world, when we commit our lives more fully to doing what God would have us do in the world."

There are times we lack this empowerment because we are short in our commitment. We hear comments all the time about the need for more workers in the local church. Someone said, "Christians are like rear brake lights on a car. They never do anything until you stomp on the brake petal real hard, and then they turn red all over."

Now, I know we do not believe that. There are many who want to be serious disciples, but they are lost as to what is involved. Sometimes, I wonder if we have so few workers in the church, because we fail to ask, and then fail to train. Stuart Briscoe says that disciples in the ancient world were made in several ways. Teachers made disciples by way of protest, procedure, and principles. But Jesus made disciples "personally." In fact, he says, "The test of one's discipleship is the depth of one's relationship."

As we reflect on our relationship, we stand spiritually today with those first disciples. We stand looking upward with them, gazing on that luminous cloud which had received Him, hearing angels saying, He should "so come in like manner" (see Acts 1:9–11).

Today we, in the spiritual sense, stand as those early disciples and we are blessed with them, for the Scriptures tell us: "...he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. ...he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven" (Luke 24:50–51). We need to be moved as they were moved, joining them in reverently worshiping Him with great joy, and as instructed returned to Jerusalem, receiving the Holy Spirit. Can you imagine what they felt when it all came together for them in

spirit and understanding? He was the Son of God, He had risen; Christ had returned to the Father and sat down at the right hand of God!

The Scriptures tell us, "So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following" (Mark 16:19–20). God sent the Holy Spirit, and their doubt, shame, and fear were gone; they entered the temple, blessing God. And they went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word by the signs that followed. So we also worship and look up. And we go back from this sight into the world, to love, and to live, and to work for the Risen Christ, "telling the story."

So, we God's people, worship in faith, for "... this... Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come, in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

I say with John, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus, come quickly!" (see Revelation 22:20).

Premarital and Marriage Maintenance

Questions for Blooming Relationships

by the Reverend John Hill
Pastor, First FWB Church, Goldsboro, NC

I was watching some trash on television today that disturbed me. Of course there is so much on TV that disturbs me, yet this program inspired me to help those I could reach. In a horribly trashy episode of Divorce Court, a very attractive young woman was requesting (what I believe to be) a justifiable divorce from her poor choice of a husband. It struck me when the judge asked; did you have any premarital counseling? Their answer was the expected NO! Followed by yet another question, how long did you know each other before you were married? Their shocking reply of 3 months left me feeling sick.

Today, more marriages are failing within the first seven years than ever before. Those first seven years are crucial for the blossoming of a beautiful relationship. However, the premarital counseling performed by many pastors leaves much to be desired. Could *some* of the failure of marriages indeed be the minister's fault for failing to provide good pastoral care and premarital counseling? I believe that a minister may only receive a small portion of the blame. But, with whom does the remaining responsibility lie?

Many boxed programs such as *10 Great Dates* are excellent programs for improving marital relationships. The list of questions is provided first to pastors not to replace their method of counseling, but to provide sample questions to assist in better sessions. Second, the list is provided to couples (new and old alike) for home discussions to improve relationships. Take this list, go out for a nice dinner with no kids, and talk! This could be a great way to begin healing wounds, deepening communication, and building stronger relationships. Please be aware that some of the questions are rather explicit. These are given to assist you. They are as awkward for me to type as they are for you to answer! These questions are compiled from Doctors De Eakes and Dan Bagby, as well as my own experiences and study.

Questions About Family:

Who are you most like in your family?
Who are you closest to in your family?
Who do you need help getting to know in the other person's family?
Who is the oddest person in your family and what do I need to know about him/her?
What are the most important holidays in your family?
What four words best describe your family?
What 3 or 4 characteristics do you want to duplicate from your family into your new family?

What is the ideal distance to live from parents/in-laws?
Who is the most supportive/discouraging of this marriage in your family?
What 2 or 3 things do you hope will be different in this new family from your immediate family?

Questions About Role & Sexuality:

What does it mean to be a man? A woman? (Ask both!)
What kinds of physical affection do you like/dislike?
What physical intimacy means the most to you and what is most uncomfortable?
Have you discussed the nature of her normal monthly cycles?
How can he help her during this uncomfortable time?
Discuss emotional and spiritual intimacy also!

Questions About Children and Family:

Are you planning to be parents? How soon?
How many children do you want?
Ten years from now what will your/our family look like?
- How many children?
- Who has passed away?
- Education, housing, career, church, etc.

What do you like most about the idea of having children?
What do you fear most about having children?
**Have you shared your full medical history? (*Write it down, save it, and update regularly!*)

Questions About Vocational & Goals:

What are your vocational goals?
Does anyone have school to start or finish?
What vocational skills does your partner have in case there is a change in vocation?
What financial liabilities do you have?
What agreements do you/they have with their family of origin? (*Finish school, etc.*)
Who is going to take a job first?
How long does one wish to work?
For whose job are you willing to move geographically?

Questions About Emotions & Intimacy:

What are the easiest feelings to detect in your spouse?
Which feelings are hardest to read in your spouse?
What would you like his/her help in understanding about him/her? (*Temper, outburst, crying spells, lack of courage, inability to discuss feelings, thought processes, approaches to issues/life, etc.*)
When do you like to talk? (*Time of day, activity, etc.*)
What do you think will be/is the greatest thing about getting married?
What do you fear most about the future?
What do you have trouble asking for? (*Help, sex, advice, intimacy, a sounding board, etc.*)
What is the most loving thing your spouse can do for you?
What is the most loving thing your spouse can say to you?
Which one of you processes (*thinks, accepts, concludes*) faster than the other? (*How does it affect your marriage?*)
Which one is more verbal? (*How does it affect your marriage?*)
How were you raised to deal with conflict growing up?
How were you raised to deal with anger growing up?
What do you do when you are angry?
What do you expect from me when you are angry, upset, or sad?
Was there any abuse (*physical, verbal, sexual, emotional*) in your family of origin?
What are your favorite vacations?
What are your favorite pastimes?

Questions About Daily Living:

What do you expect of your spouse?
What do you expect of yourself?
How have you agreed to distribute daily chores? (*checkbook, garbage, cooking, dishes, washing, food*)
What would be most disappointing to you in this relationship?
What is the hardest thing to forgive?
What do you most like to do with her/him? (*Not sexually speaking*)

What do you most like to do by yourself?
What has been the funniest moment in your relationship?
What charities/ministries will you support?
Which beliefs would you most have trouble giving up?
What are the 2 or 3 most important values your spouse can hold?
What principles in your marriage are non-negotiable for you?

The above list is a small sampling of various questions to prompt communications and strengthen relationships. This list is not intended to serve as a replacement for legitimate counseling! If you and your spouse experience major challenges while discussing these questions, you should seek an acceptable licensed professional to help clarify and resolve any issues.

There are two great myths that I hear most often:
1) If I have to ask for it, it is of no value or my spouse will not be willing to provide it.
2) Professional help is for really messed up folks!

First, allow me to ask in response to the first myth, which is worse, asking for it or going without it and prolonging pain and disharmony? Whatever it is you must ask for (physical, emotional, social, etc.) it IS of value! Second, the best time to save a marriage is before it starts and before it begins to have trouble. If you are having difficulties, nip it in the bud! As with anything else, regular preventive maintenance is less troubling than the repairs from a major breakdown!

I welcome your comments and concerns! You may reach me at <bfirstfreewill@nc.rr.com>.

KEEPING THE SABBATH

by Celia Hales

Our days are very busy. It certainly seems to be the case Monday through Friday, but often into the weekend also. The last part of that statement seems ironic since we look forward to the weekend to give us rest from a fast-paced life. I have just taken an early retirement after many years of a full-time job and a home that needed attention also. My husband and I now have the pleasure of looking back on those busy years and reflecting about what we do, day-to-day, now. One of the Christian observances, keeping the Sabbath, is something that gives me solace through the bulk of my working life. It is something I have seen at work, and I hope that these reminiscences can say something to you that might make a difference in the hectic lives that our culture demands.

I was 13 years old, and a new member of the church, having been just baptized. I was hypersensitive to the sins that I had confessed in reciting the ritual for joining the church, and I was embarrassed that I had sounded like a bad person. When my respected Sunday School teacher, herself my best girlfriend's mother, asked us to confess our sins, my mind went immediately to the homework that I did every Sunday evening. There were no evening services at my church, and I had a very demanding eighth grade teacher. I did several hours of homework in the evenings of Monday through Thursday, but somehow I wasn't disciplined enough to get my schoolwork for the upcoming week done early in the weekend. That meant that I spent those several evening hours on the Sabbath at work, trying to get ready for school the next day. So I did confess to my Sunday School teacher that my failure to keep the Sabbath was a flaw.

I doubt that this was my most distressing fault, even at 13, but the fact that I named it at an early age seems now to be emblematic of the place that keeping the Sabbath would evolve in my life. More than double my age of 13, actually at 27, I made a pact (more with myself, I think, than with God) that I would observe 24 hours of rest each week. That year I was retuning to school for the first time in five years, and I was a bit apprehen-

sive about my rusty skills. Aside from the Bible's teaching, I felt that this injunction had great practical benefit. Jesus even said that the Sabbath was made for man rather than the reverse. Certainly that first year I was tempted to renege. But I was an adult now, and I somehow found the discipline to get my homework done earlier in the weekend. My actual hours of observance were 5 P.M. on Saturday until 5 P.M. on Sunday. Part of my time was spent in the Ayden Free Will Baptist Church, because my grandparents and great-grandmother lived a short distance from East Carolina University (where I was in school), and I spent many of my weekends at their home.

I could never profess to have been perfectly faithful to my 27-year old self's promise, but by and large, I have flexible about the time. For 19 years, living and working in Minnesota, I found myself needing to work Sunday afternoons. So I observed the Sabbath from 1 P.M. on Saturday until 1 P.M. on Sunday. I can say that somehow the 13-year old girl that I once was knew that I needed physical and emotional rest once a week. And personally, over the years, the observance has buoyed me repeatedly for the other six days.

Certainly there are times when we have to get the ox out of the ditch. A homemaker is likely to spend at least part of the Sabbath in the kitchen, preparing meals for her family. A minister cannot rest on the Sabbath because of the nature of his duties. So there is good reason to let our conscience be our guide in what we do and not do on the Sabbath. I personally believe that the Sabbath should be a boring time of no fun in life. Earlier generations sometimes found themselves pained by the observance of the Sabbath that their parents demanded. I think today's culture is more relaxed, and perhaps we can relax a bit and be flexible about our observance.

In retirement in Mississippi, I still observe the Sabbath, and I have returned to the 5 P.M. on Saturday until 5 P.M. on Sunday that served me well before our years in Minnesota. I read a good bit, because inspirational literature has a central part in my life. I don't play cards or go to the movie theaters (the old prohibitions), but that is because these activities are not a part of my life on any day.

I wonder if the pace that our culture has set in our lives pains Jesus. If I had to guess, I would imagine that He is pained. I don't have any easy answer out of our impasse, because failing to work long hours may put one's job in jeopardy, and with it the income needed to live a normal life. If Jesus is pained by our busyness, He might wish to slow us down in whatever ways we can devise and still keep our head above water. And keeping the Sabbath, I have found, is a good beginning.

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD *thy God… For in six days the* LORD *made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the* LORD *blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*

(Exodus 20:8–11)

JANUARY IS RETIREMENT HOMES MONTH

As a new year begins, the challenge ahead to make sure our people are getting the help they need is looked upon with anticipation. The very thought of being able to help those who are in need is a blessing within itself. We currently are serving 19 clients. There are six in the residential program, 12 in the supplement housing support program, and one in the supplement support services program. I know we have many more of our Original Free Will Baptists who are struggling to make ends meet each month and I trust as applications are received, we will be able to meet the needs.

We were thrilled that the Youth Project of 2008 was designated for Retirement Homes. The monies raised for this project will go to build porches on our duplex located in Ayden. There are only steps that go to the doors on the duplex at the present, and it makes it difficult for the residents to get in when they have groceries, etc. in their arms. This is a safety factor and also will be of aesthetic value to the property. This is the kind of project that has been needed for a while, but due to budget limitations, has not been possible.

The storage building we own in Ayden is in need of repair and is being repaired as money becomes available. Some of the fascia boards have been replaced as well as four outside doors. The shingles on the roof are in need of replacing before they begin to leak. All this takes a lot of money, as you know. We must be very careful as we make such repairs so as not to deplete our finances and not be able to take care of our clients.

We were blessed recently to have two young men from East Carolina University, who needed a community project, come and scrape and paint some of the woodwork on the building. There is still more to do. If your youth group, or other group, or any individual would like to help with this painting it would be greatly appreciated.

This past year has been a good year in many ways, but also has been sad, because we had two of our clients go home to be with the Lord. It was a sad time for us, but I know it was a glorious time for them. Mrs. Audrey Jordan went home to be with the Lord in February and the Reverend Rod Jones went home in June. Praise God we were able to add Mr. Ed Wood and his wife Claudine to our client list in September. They are members of Deep Run Original Free Will Baptist Church. It was a real blessing to be able to make them part of the Retirement Homes family.

We really need more of our churches to put us in their budget. Only about 60% of our churches are supporting the Retirement Homes Ministry. If all our churches were supporting, I believe that all needs could be taken care of and we would have money left to expand our services. Just like your homes and church buildings, the cost of maintaining and operating our duplex and the apartments we rent is increasing rapidly.

We diligently request your continued prayers for this ministry and our clients, and for your continued financial support. If your church is not supporting our ministry, ask why. Any one of us could find ourselves in need at any time and it would be a real shame if the help needed was not available because giving had not been sustained, or begun. The good news is the money is there. The bad news is it is still in our pockets.

The Board of Directors and staff of your Retirement Homes Ministry pray you and your church family have a prosperous year ahead. If possible, to help with immediate repair expenses please receive a special offering on Retirement Homes Sunday, January 20, 2008, and make this in addition to your budgeted support. Thank you for your prayers and support and may God richly bless each and every one of you in 2008.

MAKING AN IMPACT

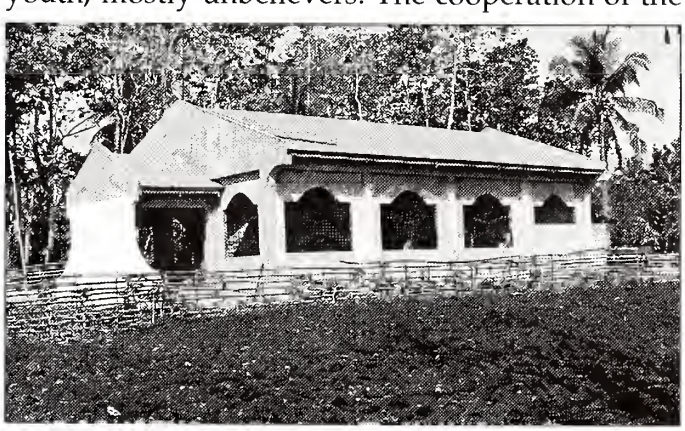
CAMOTES ISLAND, PHILIPPINES

by Faith G. Perocillo

Faith G. Perocillo

Faithfulness makes things happen! The Camotes Island Original Free Will Baptist Church, with Pastor Tereso Lincopines, is making a great leap and an impact, a mark that cannot be erased.

The summer of 2007, the couple Benjie and Rowena Campo of Puertobello, Tudela, Camotes Island, came home from the United States, to encourage their fellow Christians, not only in the local church, but all the evangelical churches on the Island. During the time that they have been here, not a day has been wasted in the work of the Lord. Long before they arrived, they blessed our local Original Free Will Baptist Church in Camotes by donating a church building costing $25,000. When they arrived in the Philippines, it was time to use the building for the youth camp, which lasted for one week, with an attendance of more than 300 youth, mostly unbelievers. The cooperation of the different pastors among the evangelical churches, made the camp possible and culminated in the dedication and signing of the Deed of Donation of the new church building.



The new church building

Pastor Tereso Lincopines and wife with Harold

After the Camp, a Feeding Program and Children's Ministry was launched in the whole county, one which they have never seen before. The impact was overwhelming. It has shaken the local non-Christian religious groups. Nevertheless, God's favor is upon those who obey His mandate to accomplish His purposes in these last days. The newly elected Mayor of the town pronounced favor on God's work and there is nothing that the world can do to stop it.

Almost a decade ago, this work started as a result of the savings made of the remittances sent by the Board of Foreign Missions to the Philippines. The 600 sq. meter lot was purchased with the savings. I was blessed to donate another 200 sq meters to add to it, because the owner wanted to sell more of his land to the church, with a very minimal cost. Now a beautiful building sits on the land, to the glory of God. Souls are being added to the church. The Filipino OFWBC saw that faithfulness really makes a great difference. The couple is now more challenged to come home every summer and pay their vow to God Almighty. Blessed be the wonderful name of Jesus!

YOU GO AND SPEAK

BALCHIK, BULGARIA

by Willem van der Plas

Elena and Niko Sima are two remarkable people who married two years ago. They share the common goal: "Take the Good News to Turkish Muslims." Elena accepted the Lord after she was healed of cancer at the age of 21. Born in an Orthodox Romanian family she learned about the principles of Christian faith. While in Germany where she was treated for cancer, she met many good natured Muslims. "I always believed that Muslims were good people who don't need a Savior." After her healing of cancer she prayed continuously to the Lord: "Lord, what do you want from me?" The Lord convinced her to speak about Jesus to Muslim people by means of a vision: "I saw a huge Mosque and many doves were flying around on the large square where I stood in the midst of. Still standing among the doves, sounded the call for worship from one of the minarets (towers of the mosque). A voice spoke to me: 'All those people are walking a wrong path; you go speak to them about me.' I was shocked after hearing this, because I strongly believed: 'They don't need the Gospel.' I prayed: 'Lord confirm this vision.' But I was unable to speak about what happened with any person around me, convinced that neither my fellow believers, nor my pastor would take it sincere. I kept it all to myself for more than two months. I became restless and the vision became a nightmare to me. Two months later I went to my pastor and found the courage to speak with him about what occupied my mind. He listened to me patiently, asking the following questions after he heard my story: 1) Are you ready to sleep everywhere? 2) Are you able to eat every food? 3) Are you able to face attacks?

Then I felt free to answer: 'I am not ready and not able, but God will help me.' At home I continued praying for the Lord to reveal His will to me. From 1997 to 2000 we witnessed with a study team under Muslim Gypsies at Medjidia in Romania. I was one of the fifteen students. Later I was transferred to the quarter which people called 'ALI-BABBA,' a very difficult place where 70% of the population was Muslim. Many people behaved extremely violent; they threatened us with guns, long knives, and axes. They opposed us by spreading all kinds of bad stories, the people turned against us and we were forced to meet in small home prayer groups. Even there they tried to attack us, but God protected us. The attackers stopped after they discovered that a strong POWER acted against them. We persevered sometimes with fear, and often encouraged, without fear. Today there is a strong Church in that City."

Elena came to Istanbul in 2001 and is serving the church in Uskudar, which was settled by the Rev. Metin Mintaz. She supports him by conducting Bible studies, religious study programs and organizing seminars. Many Turkish believers don't attend these worship meetings after the cruel incident at Malatia. In Turkey only two protestant churches are officially allowed by the Turkish Government. One is led by the Rev. Carlos, a missionary from Spain in Istanbul with a population of 18 million, the other one is in Diarbaker 1000 km from Istanbul.

Tezdjan met Elena and Niko last year in Uskudar and both came to visit her this week in Balchik. Every month they need their visa re-issued and for this reason they have to leave Turkey monthly. Both are respectable believers, with abundant love for the Lord, a warm heart to people, and compassion to all who don't have peace in Christ. We enjoyed having them with us because we are able to share the needs of this part of the world and our struggles to win Muslims for Christ. We were able to encourage one another by sharing our experiences in our work under Muslims, enlarging our understanding of the Islam and Muslim cultures and traditions.

We ask you to pray for the Christian believers among the Muslims. They certainly need your prayer support wherever they confess Jesus Christ as the Savior in this world.

Together we pray for the churches of all continents, because we learn from publications that the greatest terrorist, who is Satan, tries to defeat all who add to the glory of God.

Niko Sima, Willem, and Elena

Foreign Missions Annual Telethon

TELETHON SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2008

THEME:

"THE VALUE OF ONE SOUL?"

THEME VERSE: MATTHEW 16:26

"FOR WHAT IS A MAN PROFITED,
IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD,
AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL?
OR WHAT SHALL A
MAN GIVE IN EXCHANGE
FOR HIS SOUL?"

WHICH IS MORE VALUABLE, THE WHOLE WORLD OR ONE SOUL?
If one soul is our answer, how should this be reflected in our giving to reach them with the Gospel of Jesus?

Goal 2008: A total of $225,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.

This goal can easily be reached if we truly realize the value of one soul and give generously with that in mind.

PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL
Call in your special offering between 1:30 and 5:00 P.M.
Dial (252) 746-4963. Your generous gift and call on Telethon Sunday will reach the priceless souls of many around the world.

ONE OF THE GREATEST JOYS OF LIFE IS TO GIVE UNSELFISHLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS MARCH 16, 2008.
True prayer longs for a deeper relationship with God and understands the value of one soul.

PRAYER GOAL MARCH 16, 2008:
All churches joining together in united prayer during the Morning Worship Hour in one accord for revival. LET US PRAY!

OFWB INTERNATIONAL
BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
(OFWB INTERNATIONAL)
POST OFFICE BOX 39
AYDEN, NORTH CAROLINA 28513 (252) 746-4963

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION 2007

Friends of Children's Day is the day we have set aside to show our appreciation to the special friends who support us throughout this year. This year was even more special, as we chose to honor Dr. Bobby Taylor for his faithful service and dedication to the home, and introduce our new president, Mr. Gary Lee.

The festivities started with a traditional style lunch of turkey and dressing, with all the trimmings. Greetings were brought by James Cahoon, Chairman, Children's Home Board of Directors, who also provided special singing, joined by his wife, and sister-in-laws, the group formerly known as The Brickhouse Sisters and James.

Presentations were made to Dr. Taylor from the Board of Directors of the Home, and from the Rev. Buddy Sasser, Administrative Director, Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. James Cahoon spoke on his friendship with Dr. Taylor now and during the early years when Bobby was called to the ministry. Gary Lee spoke of the training and guidance he received from Dr. Taylor when he first came to work at the Home, as well as the challenge that lies before him as he becomes CEO of the Home on January 1, 2008.

Dr. Bobby Taylor was the keynote speaker. Prior to the message, he reflected on his past 25 years at the Home, and expressed his appreciation to those who helped him along the way, many who were in attendance at the celebration. His message began with these words:

"To the youth that are here today, please remember the Scriptures teach that we as His children are, "...fearfully and wonderfully made." Always remember that as a child of God He has a plan for your life. You might not know what tomorrow holds, but we know who holds tomorrow."

Dr. Taylor's love for children and the Children's Home was evidenced throughout his message, as he reminded everyone how important children are to our world today, and how important they were, as shown throughout Scripture.

His message ended with these words:

"As we look at our past, we see a foundation laid with convictions, dedication, commitment, and compassion. The matriarchs and patriarchs of our denomination, they were a great people, hearing God's call, a great people with a great vision."

We thank all who attended Friends Of Children's Day this year, and those who were unable to attend, for being special friends. With your continued help, we are making a difference in the lives of children and families in need.

Buddy Sasser presenting to Dr. Taylor

Presentation from Board of Directors

Dr. Taylor delivering farewell address

Gary Lee
Free Will Baptist
Children's Home

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Another year is gone, and a new one has just begun. For many, this is an exciting time. Beginning a new year can be a time of reflection, in which we take an inventory of the year or years past and all that such experiences have taught us. It can also be a time of planning and envisioning the new year ahead.

Over the past twelve years I have worked under the direction of Bobby Taylor. He has guided me and provided excellent leadership. Most of what I know about child care I have learned because he was patient and allowed me the opportunity to grow both professionally and personally. I'm privileged to be able to serve as President of this ministry. I look forward to serving as the Children's Home President, and I pledge to always give my best to this childcare ministry. I'm thankful for our staff because they are some of the most dedicated people I know. They give of their time unselfishly to our children. There is no sure-fire way to secure the future of our children, but I believe by serving as godly role models, we can make a positive impact on children's lives, and have a lifelong influence on their futures.

As I look back, 2007 was a good year for the Children's Home. We accomplished many things during the year. The successes and achievements made at the Home during 2007 and previous years would not have been possible without the support received from our faithful Free Will Baptist church community. To you, we offer our biggest expression of gratitude and we ask for your continued support.

As we look toward the future, there is still a lot of work to be done. I look forward to getting to know many of you in the New Year and years to come, as we continue working together serving children and families.

Yours, in His service,

Gary Lee
President/CEO

NEEDS LIST

- Twin size comforters, sheet sets, blankets
- Bedroom lamps
- Cleaning Supplies
- Kitchen towels and dish cloths
- Bath Towels & Bath Cloths
- Personal Hygiene items
- Cookware sets (heavy duty) 5 sets
- Photo Paper
- RCA 52" Widescreen Projection HDTV w/digital Tuner (call for details)
- Stainless Flatware service for 60 people
- Craftsman Self-Propelled 6 ¾ horsepower push mower with bagger
- Replacement Air Conditioning for Recreation Center ($3500)
- 33 Gallon trash receptacles

Happy New Year
from the Free Will Baptist Children's Home!

ADMISSIONS AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Traditional Admissions at Mount Olive College

Spring 2008 Registration is Underway

We are currently enrolling new students for the next academic year. It is still not too late to enroll in classes, so sign up today! Space is available for high school graduates and college transfers for Spring 2008. Contact Tim Woodard, director of admissions, at <twoodard@moc.edu> or by calling (800) 653-0854. Apply online at <www.moc.edu>.

College Visitation Day, Monday, January 21, 2008

High school students are invited to attend College Visitation Day on Monday, January 21, starting at 9 A.M. in the Murphy Regional Center. Parents and family members are invited to attend with their high school students. The day includes a campus tour, information sessions about admissions, scholarships, and financial aid, and academic majors. Faculty, coaches, students, and staff members will be available to assist with information about academics, athletics, music, and art programs too. Complimentary lunch and light breakfast items will be included. This event will be held from 9 A.M.–1:30 P.M. Bring your completed application and we'll waive the $20 application fee! To make a reservation, contact <admissions@moc.edu> or call (800) 653-0854.

One Night a Week Programs at Mount Olive Locations

Mount Olive Evening College:
(800) 653-0854 or <asullivan@moc.edu>

- Management and Organizational Development: January 17, 2008 at Johnston Community College—6–10 P.M.
- Criminal Justice and Criminology (ONLINE): January 19, 2008
- Heritage: January 21, 2008—6–10 P.M.

Mount Olive College at New Bern:
(800) NEW-GOAL or <gprichard@moc.edu>

- Heritage: January 3, 2008—6–10 P.M.
- Management and Organizational Development: January 15, 2008—6–10 P.M.

Mount Olive College at RTP:
(800) NEW-GOAL or <rspaid@moc.edu>

- Heritage: January 8, 2008—6–10 P.M.
- Management and Organizational Development: January 10, 2008—6–10 P.M.

Mount Olive College at Washington:
(800) NEW-GOAL or <eduff@moc.edu>

- Early Childhood: January 8, 2008—6–10 P.M.

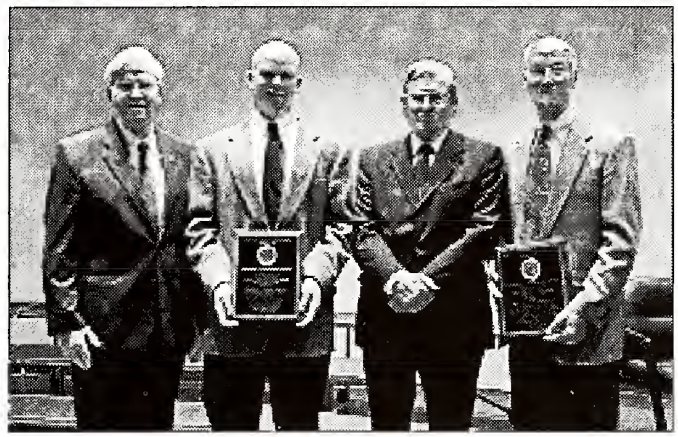
Mount Olive College at Wilmington:
(800) NEW-GOAL or <bkrosse@moc.edu>

- Heritage: January 22, 2008—6–10 P.M.
- Early Childhood: January 31, 2008—6–10 P.M.

"To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; ...to the young man knowledge and discretion" (Proverbs 1:2–4).

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding" (Proverbs 4:7).

SMITH AND BAREFOOT HONORED AT MOC FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION



Bradley Chase Smith was awarded the Founders Leadership Award at Mount Olive College's annual Founders Day celebration in November.

The award is a scholarship sponsored by Dr. W. Burkette Raper, president of Mount Olive College 1954–1995, and his wife, Mrs. Rose M. Raper. The award is given in honor and memory of those who, with vision and leadership, initiated the founding of Mount Olive College in 1951 and those who in subsequent years have provided extraordinary leadership through dedicated services, leadership, and support for the advancement of the College.

Payable on future educational expenses at Mount Olive College, the $500 scholarship is presented to a senior who has distinguished him/herself as an individual of character and initiative and who has demonstrated strong leadership qualities toward making Mount Olive College the institution of Christian higher education envisioned by its founders. The recipient is selected by a committee of faculty, students, and staff representatives. This year's committee selected Smith to receive the award because of his dedication, sound judgment, leadership, and academic excellence throughout his college career.

Chase Smith, the son of Annie Smith, is a native of South Mills, NC. He is a senior Recreation and Leisure Studies major with an emphasis in Exercise Science and minors in History and Religion. He is an Honors Student and on the Dean's List.

A number of Smith's professors described his character, saying, "Chase Smith lives by example a Christian life, always displaying a positive attitude and a willingness to not just help out, but to lead. He is humble about his accomplishments and quick to share the credit with his colleagues."

For three years Smith has served as a resident advisor and director at MOC. He is a volunteer firefighter with the town of Mount Olive and is an active member of The Big Coffee/Fellowship of Christian Students (FCS). Smith plays on the Trojan soccer team and is a member of the History Club. He is a member of Student Government Association; Vice President of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee; Committee Chairman for the Open Arms Special Sports Clinic; and MOC Student Representative on the NCAA Apple Leadership Team. Smith also serves as the senior class president at MOC.

Members of the Recreation and Leisure Studies faculty stated, "Chase exemplifies the Christian character our founders had in mind and exhibits this character through his outstanding leadership skills and living out his faith that is soundly in line with the Mission Statement of Mount Olive College and with the intent of this award."

Chase's efforts have not gone unrecognized as he has received the MOC President's Citizenship Award, Recreation Leisure Sciences Most Outstanding Recreation Major Award and the MOC Sports Academic Excellence Award. The town of Mount Olive has also recognized his service to the community through volunteer fire fighting by awarding him the 2007 Local Public Servant Award. He is the first student ever to receive this award.

This year, the Founders Leaders award was given in honor of **Mr. Gary Barefoot**, director of Library Services emeritus at Mount Olive College.

Recognizing the exemplary services and contributions of people like Gary Fenton Barefoot to the development of Mount Olive College is a primary objective of the Founders Leadership Award. In many

ways, the College library represents his professional life of more than forty years. Barefoot was a student at Mount Olive College during 1957–1959, when the College was a two-year institution, and during this time, he worked as a student assistant to the late Mildred Southerland Councill, College librarian.

Councill's passionate vision of the library, as a center of learning, honed in Barefoot a love for library science. Following the earning of his baccalaureate and master's degrees at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a brief tenure as a public school librarian, Barefoot succeeded Mrs. Councill in 1965 as librarian at Mount Olive.

From that date forward, the library of Mount Olive College is, in large measure, the story of Gary Barefoot. A special feature of his work has been his leadership, along with the late Dan Fagg, a former dean, in organizing and developing the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection, the most comprehensive resource center known on the history, faith, and work of the church which founded Mount Olive College.

"From two rooms on the original campus of the College to Moye Library and the new Communications Center on the current campus, from 7,000 to approximately 60,000 volumes, from a plan of manual operations to high technology, the footprints of Gary Barefoot are indelible," stated Dr. W. Burkette Raper, president emeritus of MOC and presenter of the award. "His commitment to both the College and the founding church has been an extraordinary contribution toward making Mount Olive the institution of Christian higher education envisioned by its founders."

Barefoot is an active member of Robert's Grove FWB Church in Sampson County.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE'S

25th Annual Basketball

Church Night

Saturday, February 9, 2008

Scholarship awarded to the church
with the largest attendance!

Drawing for Door Prizes!
Half-time activities for all ages!

Mount Olive College Trojans vs. Lees McRae

5 P.M., Women's game
7 P.M., Men's game

Kornegay Arena
Special Tickets $1

To reserve your tickets, call Tim Woodard in the Admissions office today!
(919) 658-7793 or <twoodard@moc.edu>

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE HONORS EMPLOYEES AT FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION

Mount Olive College honored 27 employees and celebrated 56 years of providing Christian higher education at the College's annual Founders Day Worship Service.

James Cahoon, assistant superintendent of Tyrrell County Schools, gave the Founders Day address. In his remarks he spoke about where the College has come from, where it is today and where it is going in the future. In reminiscing about his time as a student at MOC in the early 1970s, he noted all of the growth and transformation that the College has undergone in the past few decades.

"Mount Olive College is moving forward and continuing to fulfill the mission and purpose on which it was founded 56 years ago," Cahoon stated. "Thank you for all that you are doing here at MOC to transform lives and mold futures."

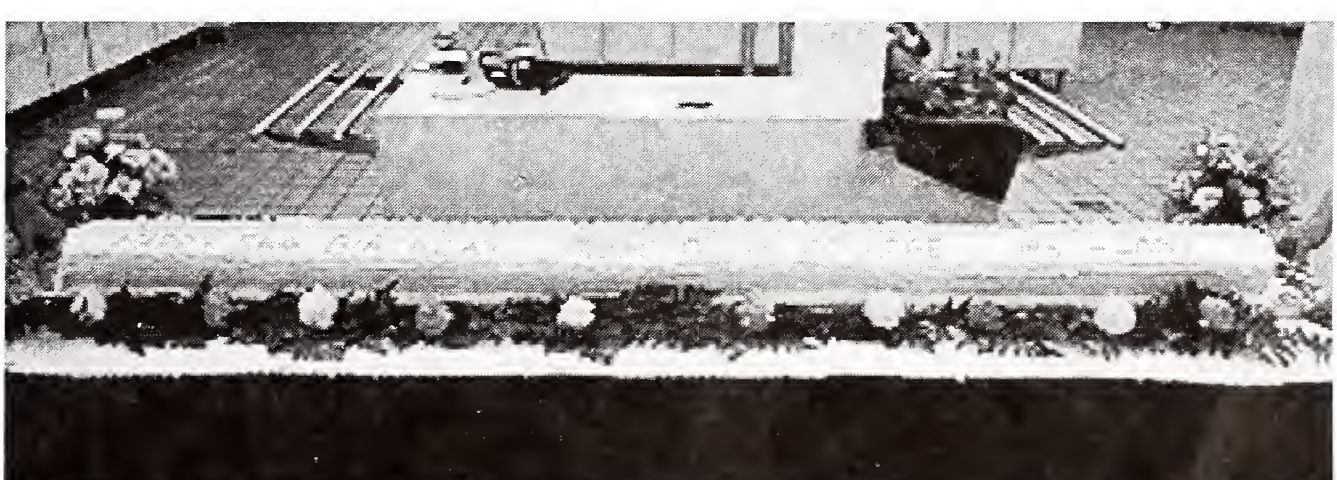
Cahoon graduated from Mount Olive College in 1975 with his associate's degree. He earned his BS degree in sociology from Atlantic Christian College, now Barton, in 1977 and his master's degree in education from ECU in 1983.

Cahoon sits on the MOC Alumni Board where he served as president in 2003–04. He is also a member of Northeast Personnel Association of North Carolina. Cahoon is married to a MOC alumnus, Kathy Brickhouse Cahoon, and their daughter Katherine Cahoon is a current student. He is a member of Sound Side FWB Church in Tyrrell County.

During the service, Dr. J. William Byrd, president of the College, recognized faculty and staff for their continued dedicated efforts to Mount Olive College. He presented each with a gift engraved with the College seal. The award recipients were as follows:

(continues on next page)

Mount Olive College celebrated its 56th birthday in a big way. Sponsored by the Undergraduate Alumni Association, the dining hall was decorated in green and white balloons and the students and faculty enjoyed a cake made especially for the occasion.



A big cake that is just perfect and fitting for the big occassion

Founders Day Employee Recognitions

5 years

Darlene K. Mathias,
Administrative Assistant for Church Support

Danny Ray Allen,
Admissions Representative IV

Dana H. Bayliss,
Assessment Counselor III

Heather L. Braswell,
Library Technical Assistant

Gary S. Cox,
PowerCampus Coordinator

Carolyn B. Dennis,
Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice

Jaime Kylis-Higginbotham,
Softball Coach & Instructor of RLS

David J. Hill,
Chairman, Department of Management and HR and Associate Professor of Business

Jennifer Ricks Merritt,
Director of Marketing

Larry E. Oldham,
Associate Professor of Music & Director of MOC Singers

Jerry W. Riggs, Jr.,
Head Men's Soccer Coach

Charles Edward (Chip) Spiron, Jr.,
Men's & Women's Golf Coach

Elizabeth L. Strugatz,
Associate Professor of Criminal Justice

Cordelia M. Wilcox,
Human Resources Assistant

10 years

Cynthia R. Hill,
Bookstore Assistant

Alan K. Lamm,
Professor of History

Joanne L. Morgan,
Director of Health Services

John L. O'Quinn, Jr.,
Facility Maintenance Technician

Susan G. Ryberg,
Reference Librarian

Terry L. Simmons,
Grounds Supervisor

15 years

J. William Byrd,
President

Timothy E. Woodard,
Director of Admissions

20 years

Katherine B. Gardner,
Assistant to the President

Larry D. Lean,
Professor of Fine Arts

Dorothy C. Whitley,
Dean, School of Professional Studies

25 years

Brenda B. Cates,
Professor of Mathematics

Tharen R. Taylor,
Bookstore Manager

Founders Day Employees

(L-R) Back Row: J. William Byrd, Larry Lean, Tim Woodard, Larry Oldham, Terry Simmons, and John O'Quinn Jr.

(L-R) Second Row: Gary Cox, Alan Lamm, Jennifer Merritt, Jo Morgan, Cordelia Wilcox, and Elizabeth Strugatz.

(L-R) First Row: Heather Braswell, Kathy Gardner, Dorothy Whitley, Happy Taylor, Jaime Kylis-Higginbotham, and Susan Ryberg

Not pictured: Cynthia Hill, Brenda Cates, Darlene Mathias, Danny Allen, Dana Bayliss, Chip Spiron, Jerry Riggs, and Carolyn Dennis

MOC HONORS DIANNE B. RILEY

As Mount Olive College has grown over the past 56 years, so have its achievements. Included in the College's accolades are a long line of trophies and plaques garnered from a great deal of hard work and skill by alumni who have participated in Trojan athletics. However, for many years, the College has had limited space in which to display those symbols of accomplishment and pride.

For more than a decade, Dianne B. Riley, director of Alumni Relations, has taken it upon herself to personally look after the well being of the College's athletic awards. That responsibility included refurbishing many of the older trophies and storing them at her home until a more suitable arrangement could be made.

Now, thanks to the Mount Olive College Department of Athletics and members of the MOC Alumni Association, that arrangement has come in the form of two new trophy cases which have been installed in Kornegay Arena. And because of Riley's tenaciousness in preserving a portion of the College's athletic history, it was decided to name the new trophy cases in her honor.

"A lady who is a tireless champion for MOC and the Trojan athletic program, Dianne has a special passion for the heritage of the athletics program and we believe it is appropriate that these new trophy cases in Kornegay Arena be named in her honor," stated Jeff Eisen, director of Athletics.

Dr. J. William Byrd, president of Mount Olive College, made a special presentation to Riley during the recent Alumni Weekend Pickle Classic basketball game. She was presented with a bronze plaque, donated by Gordon Combs of McLamb Monument, to commemorate her life and work at Mount Olive College.

Born in Johnston County to the late Treat and Edith H. Brown of Selma, North Carolina, Riley graduated from MOC with an associate's degree in 1967. While she was enrolled at MOC, Riley was very active in campus opportunities. She was president of Free Will Baptist Fellowship, business manager of college newspaper, a member of the Religious Life Committee, a member of Touring Choir, a cheerleader and second runner up for the Miss Mount Olive College Pageant. She was also captain of the Champion Woman's Intramural Basketball Team in 1966.

Riley went on to Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College) and later to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary where she earned her master's degree in religious education. After teaching elementary school in Wayne, Cumberland, and Craven Counties, she started her MOC career in admissions. Riley soon moved ahead to eventually become the director of Admissions in 1983. Now she serves the College as director of Alumni Relations.

Her work has included advising the MOC Free Will Baptist Fellowship and the Mount Olive

College Undergraduate Alumni Association. Riley was given the College Club Advisor of the year Award for 2004–2005 for her help with the UAA. Dianne Riley was honored by the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists as their Woman of the Year with a Life Membership Award during their annual meeting in May 2000. Among many other recognitions and presentations, she has earned the Founders Leadership Award at Mount Olive College for 2006–2007.

Currently serving as program prayer chairwoman of the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, Riley is a member of Mount Olive Original Free Will Baptist Church. She is a former member of Saint Mary's Free Will Baptist Church in New Bern and of Pleasant Plain Free Will Baptist Church in Selma.

"Dianne believes that the history of Mount Olive College as a whole should be remembered and cherished," expressed Eisen, "and so now it is great to have a showcase for the trophies that have been earned by our athletics program over the years. It is special for alumni who come back to see trophies they may have helped earn, and it is important for our current student-athletes to know about the tradition of Trojan athletics."

There are approximately 50 more trophies now on display in the new Dianne B. Riley Trophy Cases housed in the Kornegay Arena.

MOC NAMES PICKLE CLASSIC KING AND QUEEN

Matthew McLamb of Goldsboro and Crystal Guy of Clayton "relished" the moment as they were crowned Pickle Classic King and Queen during the 42nd annual Pickle Classic Tournament held in conjunction with Mount Olive College's Alumni Weekend.

Sixteen students were nominated by their peers to participate in this year's Pickle Classic Court. The winners were selected through an interview process with the Mount Olive Jaycees.

Crystal joins the ranks of over 33 Pickle Classic Queens who have come before her. A junior psychology major, she is active in many campus clubs and organizations. She currently serves as vice president of the Student Government Association; president of the MOC chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, and is a founding member of Campus Crusade for Christ at MOC. She is the daughter of Mark and Jackie Guy and is a member of Powhatan OFWB Church in Clayton.

The Pickle Classic King competition was introduced in 1997 when SGA petitioned for an equal male counterpart to the Pickle Queen. Matthew, a junior computer information systems major, is the son of the Rev. Tony and Joyce McLamb. He is a graduate of Southern Wayne High School and is a member of Walnut Creek OFWB Church in LaGrange.

Pictured (L-R): MOC Pickle Classic King Matthew McLamb, MOC Pickle Classic Queen Crystal Guy, Mr. Crisp, Ms. Mount Olive College Sarah Finch, and Mr. Mount Olive College Jay Sauls.

Congratulations

MOC ALUMNI WEEKEND—FWB INVOLVEMENT

Many Free Will Baptists were involved with Mount Olive College's 2007 Alumni Weekend. There were seminar speakers, award recipients, program participants and many attendees to the weekend's festivities.

Nathaniel Grubbs '05 was the speaker for the 4th Annual Henderson Science Club Lecture. His presentation was entitled "Embryonic Development: Insights from Insects" and he discussed what is known about the genes involved in development, and how it relates to his work in insects. Grubbs, the eldest son of Teresa and Paul Grubbs of Elizabeth City, came to MOC in the fall of 2001 to pursue a degree in biology. Both of Grubbs' parents, and his two brothers, Matthew and Andrew, as well as several other members of the Grubbs family, have attended MOC.

Jackie Turlington '68 from Stoney Creek (and the reunion class of 1967—including his former MOC Basketball Coach, Bobby Frank and two friends) won the Championship Flight of the Eleventh Annual Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament at Southern Wayne Country Club.

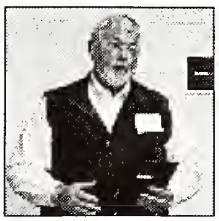
Carolyn Fader Hill '64 was elected as Alumni President; Carolyn is the daughter of the late Robert Fader, a FWB pastor. Carolyn, who now lives in Raleigh, grew up in eastern NC in several FWB churches. "As alumni we must lead by example in giving and participation as we are able," Hill stated. "I have a personal interest in MOC foremost because I saw this school grow from a one building college to what it is today. I hope that my efforts serving as President of the Alumni Association will give me an opportunity to give back to MOC what it gave me when I began my education process."

Gregg Paul '74, who was elected as President Elect, is the son of Mrs. Verena Paul and the late Dallas Paul. Gregg now lives in Richmond but grew up in the Sidney FWB church near Belhaven.

Genevieve Taylor '57 from Free Union in Greene County serves as secretary for the Alumni Board along with FWB members James Cahoon '75 from Soundside, Gary Barefoot '59 from Robert's Grove, Earl Bielby '67 from Christian Chapel, Ray Casey '71 from Casey's Chapel, Deborah King '71 from Wilson First and Becky Sumner '68 from Hickory Chapel.

During the Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center Dedication, Howard Scott '74 of the Kenly FWB Church spoke to the loyal attendees. Brad Piner '02 from Black Jack FWB Church presented a Planned Giving seminar. Every reunion group had FWB members returning. The New Cre-

ations Reunion had the most FWB to return; they reminisced with the former leader, Ms. Caroline Castelloe Rouse; one former member of this group, Donnie Rose '79, flew back to MOC from IL because MOC was that important to him. Many alumni came back on Sunday to sing in the worship service. Myra Webster '57 from DE and originally from Free Union in Beaufort County offered the memorial service. Gregg Paul was the worship leader for the Sunday service. Tony Souder '81 from Chattanooga, TN originally from Arapahoe FWB in Pamlico County delivered the Sunday morning message. Debbie Sharp Hancock '80 from the Marsh Swamp FWB, Judy Pate '64 from Northeast, Elaine Tyson Guthrie'82 from Wilson First FWB, Kathy and James Cahoon '75 from Soundside and students Ashley Edwards '09 from Daniel's Chapel and Alyssa Cummings '09 from Marsh Swamp were all involved with the Worship Service.



Charles R. Davis '84 from Union Grove FWB near Fremont was inducted in the Athletics Hall of Fame. Darrel Horne '67 won the Distinguished Service Award of the year with his pastor from Stoney Creek FWB, Gary Bailey '72, making the presentation. Horne purchased a van and storage firm in 1971 with one truck, a secretary and a moving guy. Today, Horne Moving Systems, Inc. is a thriving business with over 85,000 square feet of warehouse storage space and a fleet of trucks. They specialize in offering relocations locally, nationally, and internationally. Horne states, "I've been blessed beyond my wildest dreams." Award presenter, Gary Bailey '72 stated "Darrell Horne is a great example of someone who was blessed to receive, and who was not satisfied to keep all his blessings for himself. He constantly gives back to his church, his community, his denomination, and to Mount Olive College." Horne is currently serving his eighth term as chairman of MOC Board of Trustees. He serves on the Mount Olive College Foundation as well.

The 2007 Business Associate of the Year was Johnny T. Davis, Jr. '66. Davis was recognized as an alum who leads a successful business which is a member of the Business Associates of MOC.

Davis is President and Manager of Tyndall Funeral Home in Mount Olive. Davis and his family once lived in the upstairs living quarters of the old funeral home. His father was a partner in the business and his mother worked there as well. Davis joined the funeral home as a full-time staff member in 1976 and obtained his funeral director's license in 1989. Fellow Alum, Sprunt Hill '71, presented the award to Davis. He stated that a person must have a calling to be in the funeral business "because you are helping people when they hurt the most." Davis serves on the Alumni Board, participates in many College functions, and is very active in the Mount Olive Community.

Another Alumni Award, the Hall of Fame Award was presented to Steve Herring '72. Herring, editor of the *Mount Olive Tribune*, was presented with the award by Willis Brown, MOC Associate Professor of Biology Emeritus. Brown read comments from Dr. Burkette Raper, MOC President Emeritus, "Steve has been an indispensable friend and invaluable ally to Mount Olive College; a voice in our community unmatched by anybody else." Herring started working full-time at the *Tribune* in 1977 as a reporter/photographer and became editor of the paper in August of 1986. Owner, Bobby Woronoff, sent his commendation saying, "After 30 years and four different business owners later, Steve has been a constant presence who has never ceased to make Mount Olive and its surrounding communities a better place to live." Herring is a familiar face around campus as he continues to tell the MOC Story.

A special presentation was made to J. E. and the late Joyce Andrews as Honorary Alumni. For nearly 20 years, J. E. and the late Joyce Andrews cultivated a feeling of family to countless male students residing in Grantham Hall dorm. As resident directors of the dorm, the Andrewses not only made sure the students were comfortable and safe, but they also provided a nurturing and loving environment where students

could gather for a late night visit when they just needed someone to lend an ear. J. E. was a sports enthusiast and because of his passion for baseball, he helped Ray Scarborough build the first dug-out and baseball field at MOC. Joyce started the first Miss MOC Pageant and used her creativity to arrange flowers for campus events and make prom dresses, wedding dresses, and veils for those students who did not have the resources. Romey McCoy '78 from Core Creek FWB Church stated, "She truly loved us guys. Mrs. Andrews laughed with us, cried with us, got angry with us, doctored us; she was a second mom to us and above all, she was a friend." Jay and Terri Ham Kornegay, class of 1979, along with their two sons, gave a musical tribute in memory of Mrs. Joyce Andrews by singing, *Go Rest High*. Mrs. Andrews died in July 2007.

Dianne Riley '67, Director of Alumni Relations, smiled proudly after another successful MOC Alumni Weekend and she even started advertising for next year, saying "Save the date! Alumni Weekend November 21–23, 2008!"

Alumni photos shown in article: 1) Nathaniel Grubbs, 2) Alumni Golf Tournament, 3) Randy Wilkerson, 2006–07 Alumni President, passes gavel to 2007–09 President, Carolyn Fader Hill, 4) Gregg Paul being congratulated by friend Romey McCoy after the elections on Saturday, 5) Darrell Horne, 6) Johnny Davis Jr., 7) Steve Herring, 8) J. E. Andrews with daughter Faith Andrews Cameron

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MOC RECEIVES AWARDS AT FALL PBL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Mount Olive College Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) recently attended a Fall Leadership Development Conference in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. The MOC Chapter received several awards during the conference. Two of the more notable awards were the non-trivia contest and the MVP Shop 'n Share Program.

The Non-Trivia Team consisted of Bryan King of Mount Olive, Richard Cassidy of Lenoir and Victoria Taylor of Castle Hayne. The purpose of this contest was to quiz the teams on different facts related to PBL this fiscal year. The MOC chapter placed first in the Non-Trivia, taking home a certificate and a plaque.

The MOC chapter also placed first in the MVP Shop 'n Share Program, a program designed to encourage people to use their Food Lion MVP cards each time they shop. By using the cards, a portion of the savings is donated to the PBL Foundation and used for scholarships. The MOC chapter received a first place trophy and a $150 check for their outstanding performance in the MVP Shop'n Share Program.

"This was my first year as PBL president," stated Crystal Guy of Clayton, "I was well pleased with the way our chapter participated and how we were represented at the conference. We definitely got the Mount Olive College name out there among all the regions' participants."

In addition to the students, Sonya McCoy O'Brien, MOC PBL advisor, also attended and presented at the fall conference. O'Brien presented a workshop to students and advisers entitled "Tech Etiquette." She also brought greetings at the opening session from the FBLA-PBL National Board of Directors, and presented checks to scholarship recipients as a board member of The NC PBL Foundation, Inc.

Photo Caption: Back Row (L-R) Bryan King, Josh Marquez, Kenneth Jones, and Richard Cassidy. Front Row (L-R) Mary Hare, Kristen Knowles, Gerald Jones, Victoria Taylor, Crystal Guy, Hope McPherson, and Brian Parnell.

SACRED SPACES AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

As part of the Spiritual Formation through the Arts course here at Mount Olive College, a number of students have created special areas on campus in response to learning about sacred spaces.

These places have a unique perspective to offer Christian pilgrims on their journey.

"Our spirituality and communion with God should be ever-present and all-consuming," stated Sarah Finch, a member of the class. "It should pervade and invade all aspects of our work, play, ambition, and life."

The sacred spaces on the Mount Olive campus have been provided to encourage the campus community to think about these issues on a deeper level and to experience a new dimension of God's creation.

"As you wander through the natural exhibits, we pray that you will be uplifted, challenged, motivated, and inspired," Finch continued.

Group 1—Labyrinth set up behind the Laughinghouse Building. Prayerfully walk through and meditate on just "BEING" with God.

Group 2—Sacred Walkway set up on the sidewalk behind the Academic Affairs Building (the little white office building). Read the quotes and thoughtfully respond to the questions.

Sit and relax by the pond at the end, in order to process what you have just been through.

Group 3—Sacred Disc Golf Course set up with thought-provoking quotes on each basket.

Spend some time in active worship, enjoying the outdoors and appreciating the little messages of encouragement and wisdom that are presented at each goal. Pause at basket # 8 to rest in the natural sanctuary that has been created there.

May the Lord bless you! Peace to all those who enter!

(Photo 1): creating the sacred walkway.

(Photo 2): one of the thought-provoking signs along the walk

MOC STUDENTS SING WITH FREE SPIRIT

Directed by Dr. Alan Armstrong, professor of music, Free Spirit is an 11-member Christian ensemble that presents the Gospel through contemporary music. The group ministers regularly in church services, at youth meetings, and at club and community functions throughout the region.

Members of the 2007–2008 Free Spirit are: Joy Layendecker of South Haven, MI; Carley Moore of Johnsonville, SC; Holly Steele of LaGrange, NC; Andrew Alphin of Kinston, NC; Meghan Phillips of Fuquay Varina; Brian Parnell (First FWB Church of Wilson) of Lucama, NC; Ashley Edwards (Daniels Chapel FWB Church) of Kenly, NC; Ahmad James of Winterville, NC; Laura Thompson of Kinston, NC; Andrew Grubbs (First FWB Church of Plymouth) of Elizabeth City, NC; Hope McPherson (Beaverdam FWB Church) of Whiteville, NC; and George Mitchell (Rains Crossroads FWB Church) of Princeton, NC.

THE KEEPER

A Publication of Cragmont Assembly

"On an average weekday, Gary hops up at dawn, downs two cups of coffee, clips a beeper to his belt, and races of to a demanding job with a communications firm. At noon, he slams a Big Mac and fries, then charges through several P.M. appointments. On the way home, he picks up his son, Sean, from karate class. Meanwhile, his wife, Lynn, is already home, retrieving phone messages and shoving leftovers into the microwave. After a rushed dinner, she scoots out to a parent-teacher conference, on the way dropping daughter Katie off for her flute lesson. Gary heads to his computer, first to pay bills, then to draft an overdue business proposal that he e-mails to an associate halfway across the country. If he finishes early, he catches some of the late news and Letterman. Somewhere about midnight, Gary unplugs Sean's computer, arms the alarm system and shuts off the lights, and falls into bed. Six hours later, the whole scenario starts again." (CCI/USA)

Some people would say that there is nothing wrong with the way this sounds because it is very typical of most people's lives. For me that is precisely the problem. Our world is so hurried, so fast paced that we don't even realize how overextended we really are. Somebody needs to jump into our lives and call time out! In Scripture we read where Jesus needed to get out of the mainstream of His life for rest. After the feeding of the five thousand Jesus needed to go alone on the mountain to pray (Matthew 14). Jesus also used the quietness of the mountains to teach His disciples as He did in the teaching of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5). Original Free Will Baptists have a place in the mountains that is the ideal place to reorganize our emotional, physical, and spiritual lives. It is indeed a place of revival for every aspect of our life. Cragmont is not just another ministry of the denomination that needs the financial support of the churches that make up the Original Free Will Baptist Church. This is a place that God called into existence for the purpose of retreating from life for the purpose of renewal whether we are young or old. Cragmont is to be used not just supported. You are encouraged to plan a retreat for your church, Sunday School, or family.

MINISTER'S WIVES & WIDOWS RETREAT

The Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry is again sponsoring the Fourth Annual Minister's Wives and Widows retreat at Cragmont beginning Thursday, January 31 and ending with Sunday Worship on February 3, 2008. This year, a special treat is planned: "a weekend at the Cragmont spa." The focus will be on a book by Elizabeth George, "A Woman's Walk with God: Growing in the Fruit of the Spirit." When discussions involving the book are not taking place there will be opportunities to visit the spa for either one or all the amenities that will be provided by professionals in area of "women's care." You can choose to have hair style, manicure, pedicure, or massage. You may just choose to relax. Each person will receive a copy of Ms. George's book for your library. Registration is simple. Send in your name, address, telephone, e-mail address, and any special diet needs to Mary Dudley at PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513 or e-mail Mary at <director@ofwbsundayschool.org>. The cost for the weekend is $150 inclusive. If you need transportation it can be arranged for you.

PASTOR / DEACON

During the Minister's Conference, Dr. Burkette Raper spoke on "Identifying those qualities and characteristics that distinguish Original Free Will Baptists from all other Baptist groups." The paper that Dr. Raper presented was well received, so much so that many pastors who have attended the Pastor/Deacon retreat in the past requested that their deacons be given the opportunity to hear an expanded form of his paper. Therefore the 2008 Pastor/Deacon retreat will feature Dr. Burkette Raper discussing how our doctrine is different from that of other Baptist groups. Pastors and Deacons need to know how to effectively communicate to those seeking to unite with our churches the differences that exist in our denominations. The dates for the retreat are April 17–19, 2008. To register, please contact Arlinda or Phyllis via our toll free number (877) 669-7677. Please do not e-mail!!! The cost is: main building, motel, or lodge $120 per person and dorm $95 per person. We are taking registrations now. This is going to be an exciting event.

SKI RETREATS

Many dates have been booked for ski retreats; however, there is still plenty of room for your church. Give us a call and reserve a date for your winter wonderland retreat.

THE LASSITER FAMILY CENTER

For a number of years many have dreamed of a new facility that would provide improved and expanded recreational opportunities, a large worship area, and additional classroom space for summer camping. June 2007 saw that dream become a reality with the completion of The Lassiter Family Center. This 11,200 square foot multi-purpose facility was made possible by Donnie Lassiter and family, whose generosity covered the entire cost of construction. On October 27, 2007 the Lassiter Family Center was dedicated to the Lord for the many good things that will happen within its walls. The Rev. Mike Barnhill, chairman of the Board of Directors, led the worship service which was attended by the Cragmont Board of Directors, the Lassiter family, and friends. The service was followed by lunch prepared by the Cragmont Staff.

Tips for Beginning a New Year in the Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School

- Maintain beliefs in the eternal standards and values in the Scriptures.
- Be willing to listen and study someone else's view of Scriptures. Remember: God speaks to ALL in different ways.
- Keep your faith active instead of passive.
- Retain or regain your commitment to God.
- Review the Original Free Will Baptist Doctrine and Government.
- Keep a positive attitude.
- Expect great, but realistic, things to happen.
- Spend time looking at what you received rather than what you didn't receive.
- Maintain a sense of humor.
- Take time to think.
- Inspire rather than impress.
- Let change be your ally rather than your enemy.
- Before you criticize, be ready to provide an alternative.
- Do not be satisfied to sit back and let your church die because of your lack of motivation and involvement.
- Become active in ministry or service to others.
- Learn from the past; be ready to learn from and adapt to the present; prepare and plan for the future
- Sunday School workers should be **F**aithful, **A**vailable, and **T**rainable.
- Ask yourself the question, "If my church were to disappear, would anyone in the community notice?"
- Prepare your church for the "Life on Loan" experiential journey.
- Take time to remember those who have gone before who have led the way for excellence in service.

For information or assistance with your Sunday School, contact:

Mary M. Dudley
OFWB Sunday School Ministry
PO Box 39
Telephone: (252) 746-4963
Fax: (252) 746-7993
director@ofwbsundayschool.org
www.ofwbsundayschool.org

places they have been

- Alabama
- California
- Florida
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Louisiana
- Michigan
- Mississippi
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Texas
- West Virginia

WON TO CHRIST IN 2007

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WHO WILL TELL THE STORY?

A contribution will send our team to share the greatest gift of life.

send your church's contribution today to:

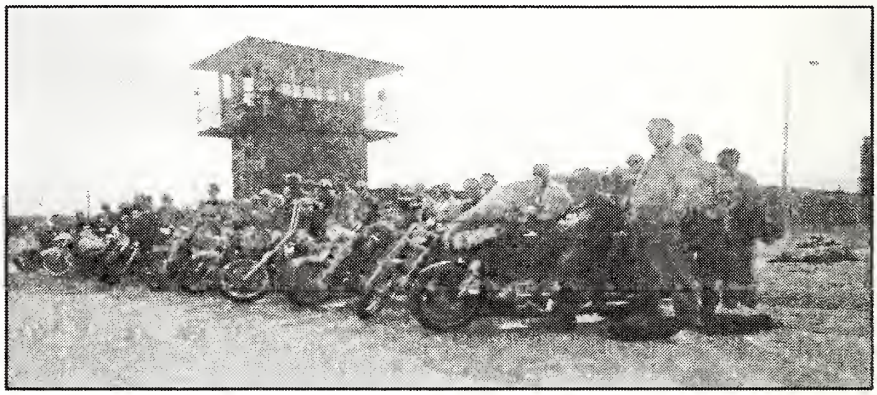
Home Missions
& Evangelism
PO Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513

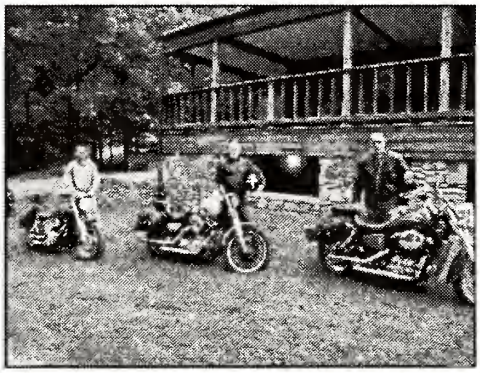
For: Biker/Prison Ministry

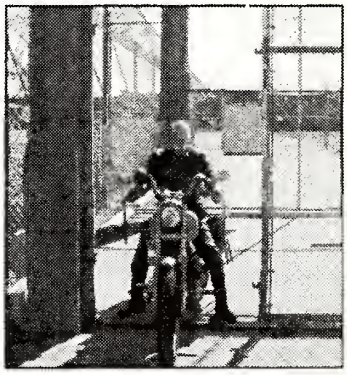
Phone: (252) 746-4963
E-mail:
assistant@
ofwbhomemissions.org

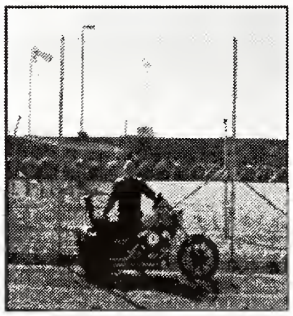
the places they will go...

"The Biker/Prison Ministry of Original Free Will Baptists have a strong outreach emphasis. This ministry will take our team into youth detention centers, prisons, and to motorcycle events where they can **TELL THE STORY!**"









<u>BECOME A MEMBER</u>: To obtain information about participating in the Original Free Will Baptist Biker/Prison Ministry and how you can become a member (you do not need a motorcycle to join), call or e-mail our headquarters at:

(252) 746-4963 or assistant@ofwbhomemissions.org

are where we send them.

Happy New Year in 2008 from Camp Vandemere

"O send out thy light and thy truth" (Psalm 43:3a).

Looking forward to the New Year brings excitement in the ministry of Camp Vandemere. With all the blessings received during 2007, embarking on the work to be done in 2008 will be a rewarding challenge for the camp manager and board of directors to continue what God has in store using the camp to further His Kingdom.

At the Eastern Conference Annual Meeting in October, a full board of 15 members has been set to work during the new year. Our board now consists of the following members:

- The Reverend Owen Arthur
- Randy Blalock
- Faye Bryant
- The Reverend J. R. Clark
- Lorraine Garner
- Kenneth Hill
- Janet Jones
- Victor Jones
- Damon Kennedy
- Reed Kennedy
- The Reverend Tim Lawrence
- Ricky Price
- Audrey Quinn
- The Reverend Ashley Summerlin
- Angie Toler

Please be much in prayer for our board to accomplish what needs to transpire at Camp Vandemere.

Events and camping information has already been set for the coming year. Here are some dates to remember:

- April 19, 2008
  Sports Court Dedication
- May 3, 2008
  Summer Camp Director's Meeting
- June 6, 2008
  Annual Golf Tournament
- June 1–August 15, 2008
  Summer Camp Weeks
- October 17 and 18, 2008
  Singin' by The River
- November 7, 2008
  Annual Fishing Tournament

The Singin' by the River weekend final total received for the use of the camp's general operations is approximately $15,000 with the Fishing Tournament raising a little over $500. Thanks to everyone that had a part in making these events successful.

Please invite the Camp Manager or a Board Member to your church or meeting for a presentation.

Thank you for your continued support of Camp Vandemere through prayer and financial means. Without you, our camp cannot continue to fulfill its mission of bringing youth to Christ.

The Reverend Wesley Taylor, Camp Manager
P. O. Box 188
Vandemere, NC 28587
(252) 745-3171 camp office
(252) 514-3222 cell

Damon Kennedy, Camp Treasurer
1571 Red Hill Rd.
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(919)658-3253 home
(910)296-7100 cell

Camp Vandemere, Inc.
215 Third St.
Vandemere, NC 28587

Layman's League

The semi-annual meeting of the State Convention Layman's League was held at King's Crossroads OFWB Church on November 9, 2007. The guest speaker was Bobby Owens from Memorial OFWB Church. The group "Called Out" from King's Crossroads provided special music. A delicious meal of barbeque with all the trimmings (including flat oven-baked cornbread like Mom used to make) was prepared by the host church and enjoyed by all. A special heartfelt thanks goes to King's Crossroads Church for their hospitality, generosity, and prayers.

The following includes an update on the events and projects conducted by the Executive Board of the Layman's League for the year 2007:

1) Annual Ladies Night was hosted by Juniper Chapel on July 28, 2007
2) Annual Gospel Sing was hosted by Harrell's Chapel on September 29, 2007
3) The Rev. Alvin Keener was appointed to the Board as Assistant Pastoral Advisor
4) Candy was donated to Camp Vandemere after the May Convention
5) Chili and pork loin sandwiches were sold at the Ag Fest in October 2007 with proceeds of $311 received
6) "Father-and-Son Outing" has been discussed and will be implemented in 2008
7) E-mail newsletters to be implemented in 2008
8) The annual book project (written by ministers and laymen) was a great success. As always, writers are needed.
9) Awards will be presented to individual church Layman's Leagues based on the following:

a) Maturity (Gold Cross):
- attend all district and convention meetings
- meet at least ten times a year
- utilize the Layman's League Program Book
- contribute $50 quarterly to the Layman's League Convention work ($200 yearly)
- host a convention program (Annual Gospel Singing, Ladies Night, or semi-annual meeting)

b) Excellence (Gold Star):
- all under the Maturity level plus:
- sponsor a yearly fund raising project for one of four ministries (including Camp Vandemere and the Carolina Bible Institute)
- sponsor a church-wide ladies night in which all of the ladies (wives, widows, single women) are treated to a meal and program

c) Nobility (Gold Crown):
- all under the Maturity and Excellence levels plus:
- plan and conduct a Sunday morning service (make it a layman's day in which the work and purpose of the Layman's League is emphasized)
- develop a program of community involvement where the local Layman's League reaches out to meet the needs of the poor and elderly.

The calendar of upcoming events in 2008 include the following:

- State Convention Layman's League semi-annual meeting, Camp Vandemere, June 6–7, 2008 (consolidated with the annual Spiritual Life Retreat) Opens with dinner on Friday night June 6 at 6 P.M. and concludes on Saturday afternoon
- State Convention Layman's League semi-annual meeting, Harrell's Chapel OFWB Church, Snow Hill (Highway 58 North approximately 3 miles from Snow Hill) November 2008, date TBA

Laymen, please put these dates on your calendar. Be present and be counted.

submitted by Elmer Harrell, Secretary, Conference (State) Layman's League

Images from the November 9, 2007 semi-annual meeting of the State Convention Layman's League held at King's Crossroads.

(left) Bobby Owens form Memorial OFWB Church was the guest speaker.

(right) Special music provided by singing group "Called Out"

NEWS FROM REEDY BRANCH

by Carol Stevens

Parade of Tables

November was a busy month for the Reedy Branch Woman's Auxiliary. We held our first "Parade of Tables" and luncheon on Saturday, November 10, 2007. There were twelve tables, hosted by auxiliary members and other women of the church. Each hostess selected a theme that was related to a Bible Scripture. The tables were set with centerpieces, dinnerware, and hostess gifts that reflected the theme. Two tables were of special interest. One highlighted the Woman's Auxiliary. A second one, on Breast Cancer Awareness, was in memory of Bonnie Evans, a past president of our group.

Each hostess invited guests to join them to view the tables and to enjoy the luncheon. Men in the church volunteered to be "servers" for the event and did an outstanding job. Their participation was enjoyed and appreciated by everyone. Dee Braxton-Pellagrino blessed us with violin music during both the viewing and the luncheon.

Following the luncheon, Mrs. Linda Thomas presented us with an inspirational message. Mrs. Thomas, an avid Christian speaker, is a member of the First Pentecostal Church in Vanceboro, N. C. She encouraged us to compare our lives with various types of vessels, such as a crystal vase and a silver pitcher. She described each vessel, how it can be cared for and used, and compared it with how our lives can be used for God's work.

The event raised a total of $3400, which was designated this year to be donated to the OFWB Foreign Missions ministry. Sponsors for each table donated a minimum of $100 per table and others made additional donations. Although a lot of work was involved in putting this event together, everyone enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship. Many of us hope that this will become an annual event

Study Course

On Thursday, November 15, we hosted a study course for the district on Home Missions and Evangelism of Original Free Will Baptists. The Rev. David C. Hansley, Executive Director of Home Missions and Evangelism presented the workshop. He emphasized the importance of our home mission's work and described the various projects we are currently involved in.

The Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Ministry is a very important part of our home mission ministry. Mr. Hansley reviewed some of the ongoing local projects the ministry is conducting, as well as projects throughout the nation. Our disaster relief team is recognized nationally as a model and is sought out by other communities to help them develop their disaster relief plan. Roy Wetherington, Coordinator of the Disaster Relief Ministry, gave a video presentation showing some of the work still being done with Hurricane Katrina victims in Mississippi

Mr. Hansley challenged each workshop participant to have their home church put together enough bedding kits for the largest family in their community and to be ready to be the first on the scene at a local disaster. If your church is interested in being prepared to participate in local disaster relief, the Harvest Connection Disaster team is available to come to each church to help develop a disaster preparedness plan.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM POWHATAN

Powhatan hosted the November Cape Fear Youth rally and arts and crafts exhibition. Only three churches attended the rally. New officers were installed as follows: Kim Canady—president; Megan Pebbles—vice-president; Hayley Benson—recording and corresponding secretary; Dean Hardy—treasurer; and Nathan Slaughter—song leader.

Members attending the Cape Fear Conference at St. Mary's Grove on November 13 with the Rev. Jim Bogle were delegates Buck Canady and Chris Bagley, and clerk Rita Jones. Mr. Bogle accepted an appointment to the ordination board for the conference. Powhatan volunteered to host the 2008 annual conference.

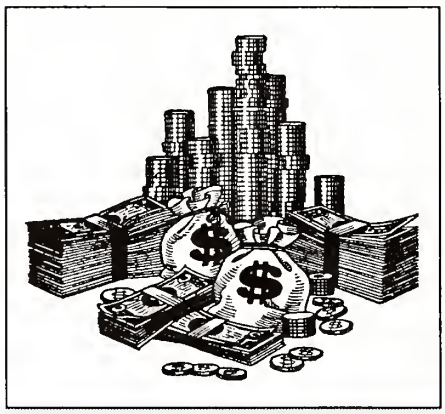
Several Clayton area churches gathered for the annual pre-Thanksgiving singing on Sunday night, November 18. A love offering was collected for Clayton Area Ministries (CAM) to help with their community service, especially over the winter months.

In Memoriam:

Member Nell Carrington passed away on November 8. Please remember her family during this time of loss.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN 2008

by Donald Fader



Financial Planning: A Biblical Persepective

I hope that your Christmas Season was filled with the joy and happiness that comes from celebrating the birth of God's Son. Family, friends, and fellowship make Christmas a delightful time of year but I am sure that you are willing to admit that sometimes we tend to overdo the secular side of the season. We sometimes find that our clothes fit too tight and January bills remind us that the joy of gifts given in December have a price. They come back to haunt us like the ghost of Christmas past in the Dickens' tale.

So in January we make plans, join the gyms, and resolve to save more and spend less so that we can place our financial house in order. While seemingly unrelated they share a common factor that is at the root of both seasonal weight gain and financial, discipline!

Discipline is the foundation that success is built upon. The road to success in these areas is incredibly simple. To lose weight you need to buy a $1 calorie counting handbook and then determine how many calories you should consume daily to maintain your present weight. This becomes your daily target or goal. When you put away more calories than the target, you gain weight and vice versa. In finances you have to develop a plan where you spend less than you take in.

The big problem is that everyone is looking for the quick fix. For some it is a magic elixir that causes weight to just fall off and others are looking for a get rich scheme that makes you wealthy. There is no quick fix! You need a plan, a plan that follows a clear path that leads you where you want to go. What does it take? Discipline! "The plans of the diligent lead surely to advantage, But everyone who is hasty comes surely to poverty" (Proverbs 21:5 NASB).

How many times have you said to yourself, "If I only made more money then I wouldn't have these financial problems?" Nothing could be further from the truth. The secret to financial success and stability is being faithful with what you have. Some dream of winning the lottery convinced that a financial windfall will put them on easy street. In fact the history of the lottery is replete with big winners, who in a few short years find themselves deeper in poverty than they were before they won. The lottery is certainly not God's plan and when you consider the odds of winning you realize that the lottery is nothing more than a tax on people that aren't very good in math "Commit your works to the LORD, and your plans will be established" (Proverbs 16:3 NASB). This is real stewardship.

I never cease to be amazed at how many people live from day to day with no real idea of what they want to achieve. If they do have dreams they have no clearly defined goal of attaining these dreams. Do you want to own your own home, pay for your children's college education, live debt free or retire? How much will this cost? Many families are afraid of the truth or think that their dreams and goals are out of reach. They blame their job, spouse or poor circumstances. Even in the community of faith there are those who think that if God wants them to have their dream then He will provide a way.

This is true but as in most things God requires some cooperation on our part. In 2 Kings 4 there is an interesting story that gives us an insight into the mind of God. You read about a widow in very dire straits as she approaches Elisha fearing she will lose her sons in payment of a debt incurred by her late husband. Instead of giving her the money to settle the debt, Elisha asked her what she had and she replied, "Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil" (2Kings 4:2). Well, you know the rest of the story. She and her sons borrowed every vessel, pot, and jar they could find and miraculously filled them to the brim with the oil from her pot leaving her with a sufficient surplus to sell and solve her financial problem. The point here is that she had to come to God with what she had before He helped her with the problem. Don't underestimate what you have, a little is a lot with God.

Sit down with your spouse and decide what your goals are going to be. Develop a plan that you both can agree on. Then pay God first and yourself second committing a percentage of your resources to your goals. This must be absolute! Then use the balance to satisfy your obligations and living expenses.

Perhaps your concern is that you will not have enough left to pay your monthly obligations. Maybe the problem is that you have too many obligations. It will come as no surprise that many families are living well beyond their means today. Now comes the time for difficult decisions; you need to cut back. Discipline! Pride has brought you into a lifestyle that you cannot afford and until you are willing to admit this you will never have control over your financial house. "A man's pride will bring him low, But a humble spirit will obtain honor" (Proverbs 29:23 NASB).

The Bible speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. Are we beginning to love the Psalms more? Are we letting the words of God speak to our hearts and meet our needs? My prayer is that in some small way, I can be a blessing to you and that God will do a mighty work in your life through His precious Word. I love Psalm 103:1–5. The benefits of trusting the Lord are listed in these verses. Take a minute and read them for yourself. God pardons all our sins. We must put the past behind and press forward living by faith in Jesus Christ. God heals all our diseases. We must let go of old wounds and hurts and be healed from the inside out.

Psalms for the Soul

by Linda Herring

God redeems us by the blood of Jesus Christ. He crowns us with lovingkindness and tender mercies. He loves us unconditionally. God gives us good things in this life to enjoy. The psalmist in verse five is saying that the man who dwells in God enjoys continuous revival and goes from strength to strength like an eagle soaring through the sky. Are we living like an eagle? Do not let the stresses of the day steal your Psalm. God loves you.

If you have any comments or prayer requests, you can contact me at <herring.theword@hotmail.com>.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT PINE LEVEL CHURCH

by Dan U. Oliver

(This article is re-printed from p. 9 of The Free Will Baptist, *Wednesday, April 21, 1948, Vol. 63–No. 16.)*

I was born on the tenth of June 1871, and my first recollection of the Free Will Baptist Church was when I was a very small boy. My father took me to the Free Will Baptist church at Pine Level, North Carolina, to go to Sunday School, prayer meetings, and also to religious services. It was his custom to attend church services and prayer meetings regularly. He was one of the first of our community to advance the Free Will Baptist doctrine.

I remember seeing Elder Daniel Davis once preaching in an old guano house beside the railroad track, as there was no railroad station here in Pine Level then, and it was reported that Elder Davis preached about three hours and thirty minutes, and that the people sat and stood to hear him.

Golden Oldies

The first Free Will Baptist church here was an old barn-looking structure. Later the second church building was the one which the church sold to the Colored Free Will Baptist people, and it is still in their possession here. After this, the brick church was built during the preaching of Elder S. H. Styron. It is the church which we have now, with the improvements which are eight Sunday School rooms. In all bringing up the total of ten rooms including water fixtures, cement walks, etc.

In 1947, we built a parsonage for our minister, which is a nice two-story structure. When I was a boy about twelve years old, and when the church was to have a quarterly meeeting, the members would come, some walking, some riding on ox carts, and others on horse drawn vehicles to the "Fast and Pray Day" on Fridays at eleven o'clock, after which they went back home to return on Saturday at eleven o'clock, and to hold the quarterly meeting. Then, after this, Saturday night service was held. On Sunday morning, Sunday School was held at ten o'clock and then the eleven o'clock service followed. But this was not all. They came back Sunday night for the last service of the meeting.

The time for our service for each month was the second Saturday and Sunday, and it has never been changed, and strange to say, there are four churches of different faith or denominations in the town, and each church has their quarterly meeting in the same month, and on their regular Sunday. "The Fast and Prayer Day" was the only one held on Friday before the second Sunday for quarterly meeting.

Our church grew and thrived, for brotherly love was one of our church practices, with visiting the sick. When our church revivals were on hand, there were services both day and night for the fellowship of Christians, and the salvation of lost souls. While this was going on, our church societies had not gotten on the market like they are today. As time came, our auxiliary work was started, and it began to grow, for our members were getting more and more on the missionary spirit. They started up the "Week of Prayer" which should have been started long ago. The one which has impressed me most was held here at Pine Level on March 21 through 28, 1948.

On Thursday night, the twenty-fifth, the members of the church had been notified to come to the Candle Light Communion service which was to be held at the church. There was a good crowd and the church was lighted with candles in an artistic manner, using about fifty or more candles. The songs and prayers were rendered so beautifully and lovely that all were deeply impressed. After this part of the service, then came the washing of the saints' feet, which was carefully done. It all gripped my heart, and I have never seen and felt such an occasion before in my whole life. I am sure everyone would have enjoyed it if they could have been present.

Churches & Ministry Positions Available

Free Will Baptist Press, Ayden, is seeking a full-time proofreader/editorial assistant. Good proficiency with grammar/punctuation and biblical knowledge required. Inquiries can be made to the editor by e-mail at <editor@fwbpress.com>.

The Reverend Charles Petit is available for the following services: supply, revivals, interim pastor, or fill-in. He may be reached by phone at (919) 553-5741 or by mail at 2014 Penny Lane, Clayton, NC 27520.

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MONTHLY PLANNER

February 2008

SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY MONTH

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 4th Sunday after Epiphany	4	5	6 **ASH WEDNESDAY**	7	8	9
10 1st Sunday in Lent	11	12 Four For One 7 P.M. @ MOC	13	14 Growing Roses 12 P.M. @ MOC **VALENTINE'S DAY**	15 VBS Workshop 7 P.M. @ FWB Press	16 VBS Workshop 10 A.M. @ FWB Press
17 2nd Sunday in Lent	18 **PRESIDENT'S DAY**	19	20	21	22	23 Rejuvenate in the Lord 2008 8:45 A.M. @ Stoney Creek Church
24 3rd Sunday in Lent	25	26	27	28	29	

NOTE:

January 6 was: Epiphany
January 13 was: Baptism of the Lord
January 20 was: 2nd Sunday after Epiphany
January 27 was: 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Dates of Lent: Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday before Easter. Lent lasts 40 days, not counting Sundays.

Color for Lent: Purple

COMING SOON:

March 1: Sunday School Institute
March 16: Telethon Sunday for OFWB International
March 28–30: Morning Star @ Cragmont

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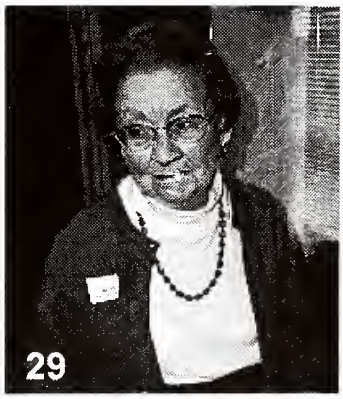

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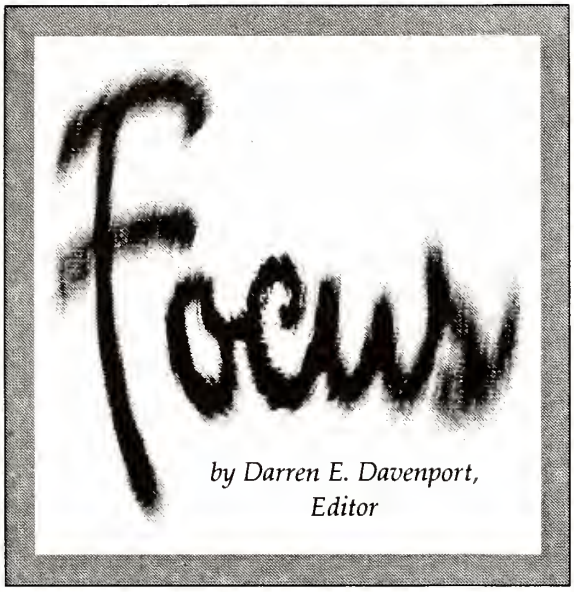
And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not (John 1:5).



Take Time for God

Last November (21st, to be exact) was a special day for me. The computers we ordered with the funds provided by our beloved OFWBs (through the *The Press to $125,000*) arrived at the Press. I, along with my co-workers, were more excited than words can express. They arrived shortly before lunch time and we could hardly wait to get them unpacked. It was, however, lunch time and not knowing they would arrive that day, I had called my wife, Carla, and invited her to meet me for lunch. Once we arrived at our destination, I commented that I almost called and canceled because of our shipment arrival, but because it was her birthday, I managed to tear myself away. Oh, didn't I mention that it was my wife's birthday. I must have forgotten—just like I did that day. I didn't really forget, though. It's just that the computers, not her birthday, were at the forefront of my mind. Up to the point of my "comment" she was pretty excited. I mean, after all, I'm a pretty romantic, sentimental kind of guy—she never knows what to expect for special occasions. My usual bouquet of roses or "bling" or whatever was not there! I had been so busy the previous couple of weeks in ordering and preparing for the computers that I didn't even think much about her birthday. I felt terrible! If it had only dawned on me before that moment...

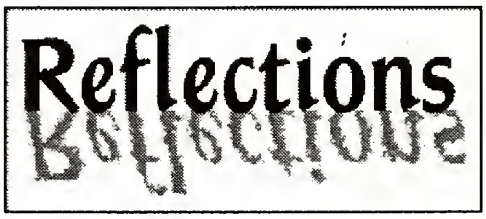
I can only imagine that God sometimes feels like my wife did that day—forgotten and unappreciated. We get so busy in our day-to-day lives rushing here and there doing whatever we do, that we forget about our most important relationship—the relationship with our Savior, Jesus. Take time to meet Him in the morning. Take time to meet in the evening. Whatever we do, we must take the time to nurture a real relationship with our Savior. *Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God* (Joshua 23:11).

I welcome your comments, criticisms, and/or suggestions. You may e-mail me at <editor@fwbpress.com>.

The Name That Offends

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

Only those who have trusted in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and thus experienced the new birth, as Jesus alluded to in John 3:1–13, can grasp the spiritual truths of the written Word (the Bible) and the living eternal Word (Jesus Christ). The apostle Paul wrote of this in 1 Corinthians 2:14: "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."



In these days we often hear of someone or a group who is offended when Jesus is mentioned, or referred to in some way. It is that name, Jesus Christ, that pricks at the conscience and heart of the unbeliever. It is of less offense for the nonchristian to refer to God than Jesus. Heads will turn when a Christian speaks openly about his or her relationship with Jesus.

In Matthew 26:31, Jesus warned His disciples, "...All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered abroad." It was Simon Peter who boldly declared, "...Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended" (v. 33). In the midst of the other discples and in the presence of Jesus it was easy to so declare, but later, surrounded by the enemies of Jesus, he denied his Lord, just as Jesus warned. There were other times that Jesus warned His followers about the offences that would come because of their faith in relationship to Him.

In Matthew 10:34, as Jesus discussed the compensations and cost of discipleship, He warned, "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword." A sword divides, and Jesus knew that a divide would occur when some believe and some do not, even to the extent that households would be divided because of Him. Persecutiuon of God's people has always occured, just as Jesus warned. He does indeed bring peace to the human heart, but His name offends those who do not know Him and thus do not and cannot understand.

(Note in last month's column I mentioned that I would deal with more specifics regarding the positive results of standing steadfast in our faith. I still plan to do so in a later Reflections.*)*

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

by Mark Hogan

"She fell," are two of the most dreaded words for the child of an elderly parent to encounter. That is exactly what I had to report to my siblings about our 85 year old mother. After an over 2000 mile road trip that included getting rear-ended in Virginia, it was in the safe confines of our Brooklyn apartment that my Mom got injured. I arrived home from work and noticed a few things lying on the floor. I thought perhaps that one of our two cats got a little too frisky and decided to reorganize a shelf. Well, one look at my mom told a different story. She said that she simply got dizzy while ironing and fell down. Off to the emergency room, and a night to remember.

We were greeted by the posted promise that we would be seen in thirty minutes or less. In fact that is a promise they kept. The triage doctor suspected broken ribs and promptly led us back to the X-ray room. In a little over an hour, we had X-rays taken and interpreted. Two fractured ribs was the diagnosis. However, the possibility of something more severe going on beneath the ribs was the biggest concern. Two doctors consulted and agreed that a CAT scan was the safest solution. We were moved to another waiting area where everyone really being treated in the ER was being held. This is when things started to get interesting. We found ourselves watching tragic and sometimes comic scenes play out in total strangers' lives. Our companion through the night was an animated 50 year old African American woman. She was a career waitress at some of Manhattan's most popular restaurants. Mom later said that, "It's funny how you just like some people right away." She kept us talking and laughing most of the night. The parade of pain that we watched through the night was more engaging and thought provoking than any TV drama. There was the Mexican immigrant who swelled up like a tropical blow fish from an apparent allergic reaction to a peach that he ate earlier. A young Asian girl sat covered in blood. I assumed that she was involved in a car accident. I later learned that she was a victim of domestic abuse. A middle aged man with a thick Russian accent began to exclaim, "What about me, I have been here three hours, what about me?" His son and wife tried to calm him and asked the nurse how long it would be before he was seen. "The Detox is a voluntary program…he will just have to wait his turn," the young nurse intoned. Shortly thereafter, a security officer the size of a commercial refrigerator called out, "Everyone but patients have to leave, we are dealing with a situation." It looked to me like he could handle most any situation and would get no argument from me.

A young Muslim woman in full burka was escorted in by her middle aged husband. He stood in front of her and placed His hand on either side of her head to hold it erect. The attending Dr. asked, "Is this girl of age?" Her husband didn't want to answer and didn't seem to have time to wait around. The Dr. finally said, "You will not abandon her." He stayed. Two different critical emergencies bumped my mom down the wait list for the CAT scan machine. Eventually, at around one thirty AM mom was wheeled down the hall for the test. Again we waited. Finally after another two and a half hours of waiting, we were told the scan was clean and that mom could leave. While she had two fractured ribs, it was a clean break and there were no internal injuries. I drove Mom home and escorted her up the steps to our third floor brownstone apartment. By the time I parked the car and made my way back to the apartment, she was in bed, wrapped from head to toe, trying to get warm and get some sleep.

The next day was a bit of a fog. I called out of work and slept till after lunch. I woke up with a headache, likely the result of caffeine withdrawal. I stumbled down the sidewalk to the local bodega where I get coffee. I ordered a large coffee and found an empty sidewalk bench where I could sip it and soak in a little sun. I decided to call my best friend from College and fill him in on the details of my Mom's fall. While talking, the conversation turned toward church stuff. He

is an active leader in a conservative evangelical church. This church has remained numerically static for at least 15 years. They had recently voted to end a major effort that was designed to create an environment for growth. When the minister announced that he would be giving his annual "State of the Church" address, my friend was very curious as to the pastor's take on the state of things. Interestingly, no mention was made of the lack of growth. Nothing was said of the initiative that had recently been abandoned. However, one of the concerns of the minister was that he was hearing too much talk about football in the church foyer on Sundays. No, your eyes aren't playing tricks on you. Too much talk about football was the best he could come up with.

I couldn't help but think to myself...this is a professional clergyman that has so insulated himself in the safe confines of the church that he has lost touch with the reality of where people are living today. I wonder if a periodic night spent in an emergency room wouldn't be a stark reminder of the pain that is out there in our communities. From personal experience, I know that most pastors get plenty of time in hospitals and are confronted with pain. I just wonder if we sometimes fail to notice the carnage all around.

When a pastor, I sometimes would pack up my books and work on my sermon, sitting at a fast food restaurant or a bookstore. It helped to remind me of the folks to whom I was speaking. As I put the finishing touches on my message, I would look at different people in the restaurant or store I was in and ask, "Now, how would that guy take this statement? Would that woman get where I am coming from? Would that teenager just think I was an angry old guy if he heard this point? I wonder how it would impact the content of our Sunday worship services if we intentionally got out of the office and out into the traffic flow of life?"

How did Jesus conduct His ministry? Did he play it safe by only spending time with His disciples? We see Jesus out among the people for whom He came to die. We don't see Jesus cloistered in the circle of His holy huddle. I'm not saying that Jesus didn't have quality time with His disciples and time alone with his heavenly Father. But, everywhere we see Christ living a balanced life. His time with His closest disciples and in planned solitude was balanced against His time with people in general. We see Jesus taking time to talk with the woman at the well, breaking bread with 5,000 (talk about Dinner Impossible), taking time to call a hated tax collector to follow Him and always had time for children. In fact, He said, "...Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14 NKJV). Perhaps the most telling passage is found when Christ was criticized for eating with people outside the fold. The story goes that, "While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mark 2:13–17 NIV).

Have you found ways to engage those outside the church family? Are you willing to step out of the comfort zone of fellow believers, to make friends with people who need Christ? Since I had my "night to remember" I have been fortunate enough to have three of my unsaved friends attend church with me. It's funny how painless it really was. I just asked them and they said yes. I am still praying for them and hope to live around them in a way to make a difference. I went to a movie with one this week and another went with us to the Church Christmas party. I think the problem most of us face is that we look at outreach as something unnatural. In fact, I once heard someone say that most evangelism is more akin to "Christian Mugging" than true evangelism. If you take time to get to know people without judging them, they might not come to church with you, but they will probably not react harshly.

So take notice of the unchurched people God has placed in your path and make friends. See what happens down the road. Then you will really have something to remember.

MARY'S STRUGGLE

by Celia Hales

A popular church leader once listed "struggle" in a list he made up—a list dubbed the "happiness mix." His list had 11 experiences that he felt were necessary in life to be a happy person. Certainly we can learn from the Virgin Mary's life that struggle was present, however reassuring the angel Gabriel was in his sharing of the news, the Annunciation, that she would have a son. Surely the Annunciation was a mountaintop experience, but Mary had to return to the real world, where she had a fiancé in Joseph who contemplated quietly leaving her because she was with child. Of course, we know the outcome now; we know that Joseph stayed by her because of a dream, but the arrival to this resolution could not have been easy.

We would like to believe that Mary, most exalted of women, was happy. But, if so, it is clear from the biblical account that struggle must have accompanied her at many junctions. This can give us hope in our daily experiences. If our beloved Mary endured struggle, who are we to ask in vain for easy lives?

SIXTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2008

8:00 A.M.–4:30 P.M.

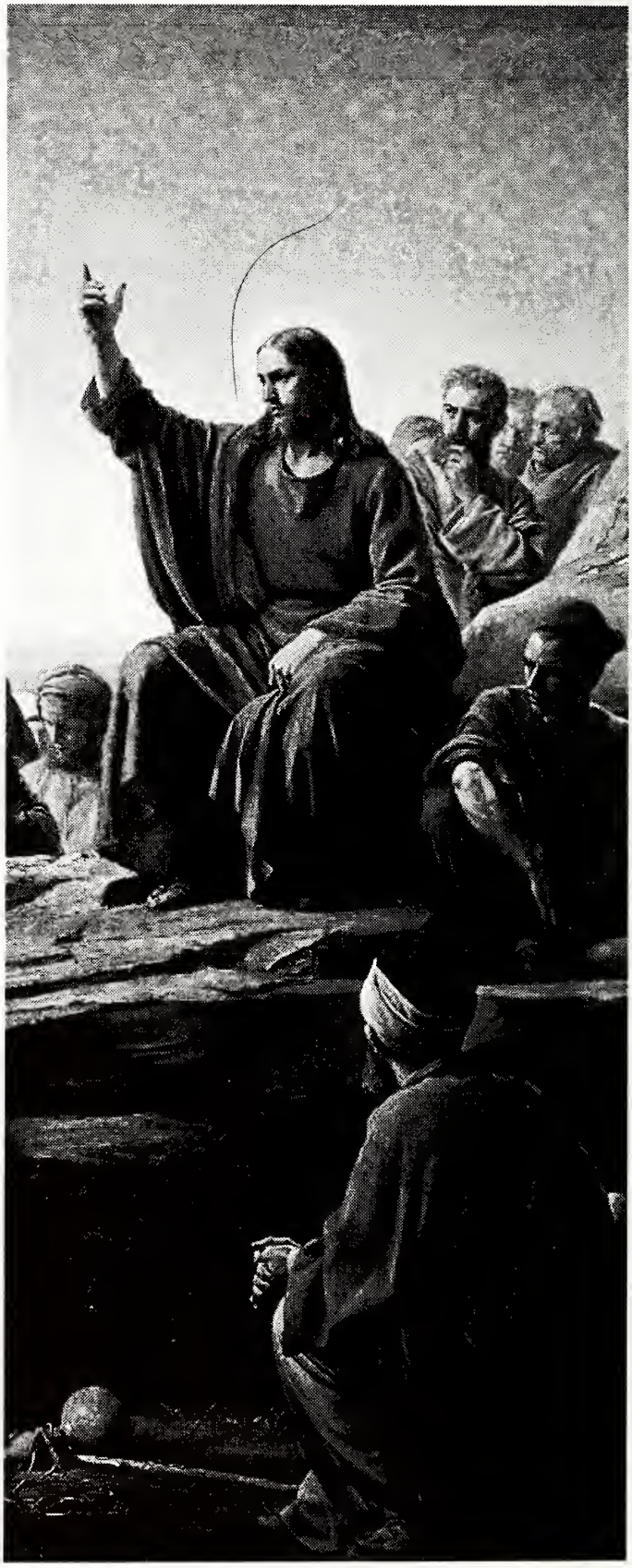
MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE
MOUNT OLIVE, N.C.

Theme:
Teaching and Learning to Go…Tell the Story

- **Workshops and Activities for All Ages**
- **40 Different Opportunities for Learning Activities.**

Special Notice:

The registration fee(s) to cover all materials and food are: $5 per person ages 4–12, $15 per person ages 13 and up, or a maximum cost of $60 per church.



Sixty-Seventh Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Institute

Saturday, March 1, 2008

Teaching and Learning for All to Go…Tell the Story!

Schedule of Activities

8:00 A.M.–9:00 A.M.	Registration, Mix, Mingle, Eat, and View Displays
9:00 A.M.–9:40 A.M.	Opening Assembly, Directions, and Awards *In the Raper Hall Auditorium*
9:50 A.M.–10:50 A.M.	Workshop Session #1
11:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M.	Workshop Session #2
12:00 P.M.–1:30 P.M.	LUNCH—Murphy Center, Dedicated Exhibit Time, MOC Bookstore Open
1:40 P.M.–2:40 P.M.	Workshop Session #3
2:50 P.M.–3:50 P.M.	Workshop Session #4
3:55 P.M.–4:30 P.M.	Closing Session in the Raper Hall Auditorium *DVD Presentation entitled* Pollution *to introduce us to the need for the externally focused church.*

The children, ages 4–12, will gather in Murphy Center when they arrive where they will have a small breakfast followed by study sessions, games, food, arts and crafts focused on God's Word. They will have different opportunities to discover God's love through discovery. They will have a day of fun and learning with Ms. Tina Penny and others. Bring your children and let them form new friendships with children from over the denomination. Their day will run from 8:00 A.M.–4:30 P.M. There will be adequate instructors for the children so that the parents can participate in the 4 workshop sessions in Raper Hall. If parents are needed by the children during the day, the instructors will contact Mrs. Dudley. The teenagers, ages 13 and above, are encouraged to participate in the workshops in Raper Hall in order to understand how they can be of service in their churches. Come and have a GREAT time in the Lord!

Workshops

— Session 1 —

How to Lead Bible Games That Really Work

Kids love to play games! This session, led by Ron Richardson, will help teachers experience and discover Bible games that teach Scripture memory, Bible review, Bible skills, and life application. We will learn how to lead these games with helps in using the game as a teaching time with discussion.

Basic Computer Skills in WORD

This workshop, led by Jason Mitchell and others, will provide an introductory understanding of the basics of computer usage and how this knowledge can benefit your church's program.

Teaching Techniques for Preschoolers

This workshop, led by Angel Lorton, will present an understanding of the characteristics of preschool children and demonstrate different techniques using the Heartshaper curriculum.

Preview of David C. Cook VBS

This workshop, led by Gordon Ritchie, will focus on a general overview of the Cosmic City, *the David C. Cook 2008 Vacation Bible School program.*

Getting Started With a Small Group Ministry	*This workshop, led by Paul Learned, will assist in growing the concept of community through small groups. Whether you're planning a new strategy or supporting an existing program, the session will help you build a ministry that serves the unique needs of your church.*
Three Chairs	*This workshop, led by Keith Kenemer, will focus on an interpretation of Joshua 24:15 as he refers to the knowledge of the Lord as held by different generations. The leader will share the chairs of commitment, compromise, and confusion as we determine our resting place in sharing the Lord with our families and the communities.*
How to Establish an Endownment	*This workshop, led by W. Burkette Raper, will provide an understanding of the fundamentals of establishing an endowment to perpetuate one's legacy.*
Personal Safety in the Ministry–Part 1	*This is the first part of a 2-part workshop, led by Norman Gordon, In this part, the participants will receive information on protection built around these topics: 1) Increase Your Survival Ratio; 2) Church/Ministry Safety; 3) Personal Safety; 4) Vehicle Safety; and 5) Survival Attitude.*
Toy Box Leadership	*What does Play-Doh teach us about mentoring? How can toy soldiers demonstrate the value strategic planning for your organization? Whether you are a pastor, a leader, or a parent, you will find the toy box a great place for lessons to successfully influence and lead others. Come and share the thoughts of workshop leader, Ron Hunter.*
Introduction to Daniel	*This workshop, led by Neal Cox, will provide an overview of the book of Daniel since the book of Daniel will be the focus of the Sunday School lessons from the Uniform Lesson Series for the month of April.*

— Session 2 —

Ministry Through Puppets	*This workshop, led by Cathy and Sarah Crumpler, will focus on how to use puppets to gain the attention of students while sharing valuable lessons in faith.*
Basic Computer Skills Using PowerPoint	*This workshop, led by Jason Mitchell and others, will provide assistance in enhancing lessons/programs using PowerPoint to present visual images.*
Preview of Standard VBS	*This workshop, led by Angel Lorton, will provide you with an overview of the Standard Publishing Company's 2008 VBS program, entitled,* "God's Big Backyard." *It demonstrates the 'how' of stewardship for kids.*
Developing a Church Disaster Plan	*This workshop, led by David Charles Hansley, will focus on the necessary goals and objectives for the church to develop its own disaster plan, no matter what the disaster happens to be. We need to be readily prepared and ready to do what is necessary.*
How to Guide an Effective Small Group	*This workshop, led by Paul Learned, will focus on the teaching techniques of Jesus as He worked with small groups. It will explore how leaders can serve and shepherd their groups.*
D6 Power	*This workshop, led by Keith Kenemer, will focus on the church's recognizing the biblical importance of parents being involved with the spiritual development of teens and children. This session will provide practical tools for usage in the home and the church.*
Prism Music Choral Review	*This session, led by Billy Jack Green, will provide the participants with a wealth of information about gospel music, praise music, and hymn arrangements. The leader will share practical and inspirational ideas that we can use in leading our choirs and congregations. Come prepared to carry something home to keep you 'singing' for the Lord.*

Personal Safety in the Ministry–Part 2

This is the second part of the 2-part workshop led by Norman Gordon. In this part, the participants will receive information on protection built around these topics: 1) Increase Your Survival Ratio; 2) Church/ Ministry Safety; 3) Personal Safety; 4) Vehicle Safety; and 5) Survival Attitude.

Effective Lesson Starters

This workshop, led by Ron Hunter, will help us understand how to begin a lesson. "Skip this lesson because no one listens anyway." If you start the class with a good connect or hook, you will capture the attention and increase the learning capacity of the students at any age. Excitement creates an environment where people will be on time and looking to find out what you are doing next. This will show you how to examine whatever studies you are using and search for a great starter for each lesson.

Introduction to Nehemiah

This workshop, led by David Hines, will provide an overview of the book of Nehemiah since part of the Sunday School lessons for May in the Uniform Lesson Series will be from the book of Nehemiah.

— Session 3 —

Teaching Through Object Lessons

This workshop, led by Cathy and Sarah Crumpler, will demonstrate various methods of teaching using different kinds of objects.

Basic Computer Skills in EXCEL

This workshop, led by Jason Mitchell and others, will provide a basic understanding of how EXCEL can enhance your record-keeping in the church.

Overview of Faith Café

How often have we heard that the college and career age folks are not interested in the church's offerings? This workshop, led by Angel Lorton, will provide a forum to meet the needs of this particular age group that is missing in our church's program.

The Many Faces of Disaster

This workshop, led by David Charles Hansley, will provide the participants with a look at disaster from many different angles. Disaster does not necessarily come in the form of bad storms.

How to Lead Quality Bible Discussions

This workshop, led by Paul Learned, will help you to maintain engrossing Bible discussions that thrive in your small group. These tips will help you lead group members to observe, interpret, and apply God's Word in productive, meaningful sessions.

Connecting Families

This workshop, led by Keith Kenemer, will share insight into how families can be encouraged to spend daily time with God and with one another. The participants will learn how the church can come along side the parents with God's Word and in the power of God's Spirit!

Prism Music Choral Review

(Repeat from Session 2) This session, led by Billy Jack Green, will provide the participants with a wealth of information about gospel music, praise music, and hymn arrangements. The leader will share practical and inspirational ideas that can be used in leading choirs and congregations. Come prepared to carry something home to keep you 'singing' for the Lord.

Throw Out the Lifelines!

This workshop, led by Gordon Ritchie, will help us understand that every day we deal with people in crisis but are we really helping them? This seminar focuses on providing meaningful and effective ministry to those facing crisis in their lives and how to provide pastoral intervention in crisis.

Finding Teachers: A Game of Hide and Seek

Have you ever been involved in the Recruitment Game—the game of finding qualified Sunday School teachers? If they are breathing, then they are qualified to teach Sunday School. Just trick them into it, and after two Sundays they are drafted for life. This session, led by Ron Hunter will help you 'play the game' of recruitment with commitment.

Introduction to Haggai

This workshop, led by Ray Wells, will provide a general overview of the book of Haggai since part of the Sunday School lessons from the Uniform Lesson Series in May will be taken from this book.

— Session 4 —

Preview of Gospel Light VBS

In this workshop, the leader, Ron Richardson, will provide a general overview of the 2008 VBS program from Gospel Light. This company is offering a choice of 2 programs. They are Son World Adventure Park *and* Son Harvest County Fair.

Advanced Level of PowerPoint

This workshop, led by Jason Mitchell and others, will focus on the different techniques that can be used when assembling an PowerPoint presentation. It goes beyond the basics.

Teaching Techniques for Elementary Children

This workshop, led by Angel Lorton, will focus on the developmental characteristics of elementary age children and different teaching techniques that can be used to capture and maintain their attention.

Working With Children During a Disaster

This workshop, led by David Charles Hansley, will provide much needed information that can be used to help children cope in a disastrous situation. We sometimes forget that children are not as resilient as we think. They need time to refocus just as much as adults.

What Makes the *Standard Lesson Commentary* So Teachable?

This workshop, led by Paul Learned, will focus attention on the different components of the Standard Lesson Commentary *that so many of our people use when teaching Sunday School lessons. The leader will discuss ideas for implementing the commentary in a more applicable manner.*

Ephesians 6: The First Commandment With Promise

This workshop, led by Keith Kenemer, will focus on an understanding of the promise that is provided for honoring others and the connection between the family members and their responsibility to God and others.

Prism Music Choral Review

(Repeat from Session 2 and 3) This session, led by Billy Jack Green, will provide the participants with a wealth of information about gospel music, praise music, and hymn arrangements. The leader will share practical and inspirational ideas that can be used in leading choirs and congregations. Come prepared to carry something home to keep you 'singing' for the Lord.

All Grown Up and Nowhere to Go

Over the past decades, the efforts and energies of Sunday School have been focused on children, thus we have lost the majority of adults. This seminar, led by Gordon Ritchie, will offer some advice on how to win them back including strategies for the adult class structure and learning to teach in the adult arena.

Fumbling the Heart Hand Off

Our goals in life are often distorted and while we reach many of the professional goals we miss the one more vital than any other. We are charged with passing along our faith, our love for God's Word, and a love for our Lord. We simply fumble this because we expect the Sunday School teacher or the preacher to do it all. This session, led by Ron Hunter, takes you through the Biblical principles of a Christian Education philosophy that shows how to empower the parents to touch their child's heart for eternity. We can't fumble this one.

Externally Focused Church

Victor Hugo once said, "There is nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come." Such is the case for churches as each one realizes that there is more to evangelism than just knocking on doors and confronting people. In this seminar, led by Buddy Sasser, the participants will come to understand that becoming an externally focused church is not only about changing the mechanics of ministry, but about creating a culture of serving others that will open the door to lives that intentionally intersect with others.

WHO IS OUR HELPER?

by Tezdjan

A soul is a gift, which humans received from God. It is a wonderful gift and when I think how many creatures like fishes, worms, butterflies go along without a soul; it makes me feel loved and special.

Today I like to share with you a story about the healing of a soul, which I received from Niko Sima. First-born babies—we are so exited when we receive them! The same it was to a Christian family that was expecting their firstborn child. Every day of the pregnancy the parents were praying to God and thanking Him for the miracles of life they witnessed. When time for labor came, their baby boy was born. They called him Michael. Michael was an unusual baby. When the nurses presented Michael to the parents, they saw that he did not have arm and legs, but nevertheless they thanked God for their baby, though their joy was overshadowed. The questions which followed exceeded the answers of the doctors and other specialists.

"Michael received all the possible love from his mother and father. Yet they wanted to introduce him to the ultimate love ever provided to mankind; the love of God. One day they told him: "It will help you to know more about God and learn to love Him. We may not always be here for you, but He will. Remember that." So they wrote him in to a Sunday School. There Michael learned that God is a God of possibilities, of miracles, of love and patience, a God of promises. He enjoyed going there. As the years passed by, Michael realized that during his entire life he will be chained to his mother and to his caretakers. Depending on other people to be washed, fed, moved around etc. appeared as a devastating picture in his mind. Michael decided to ask God for arms and legs. If God could rain manna from Heaven and bring a water spring from rock, it should not be a problem for Him. He fasted and prayed day after day. Every morning he was spending time in front of the mirror to check if his arms are growing. It seemed to him that God was deaf, because nothing happened.

One time, Michael said in prayer: 'LORD, you say that I am made in your image! Well, look at me. Is this your image? Are you limited like me doing things as I am able to? I cannot continue to live like this! Please show me your face. Don't hide from me any longer!"

The story continues…

"The years are passing by; Michael is still without hands and feet; however, something has changed. He has learned to accept himself the way he was born, assured that God accepts him the way he is. Divine Peace starts flowing from his heart and Michael realizes that he has been created in the image of God, not in body, but in Spirit. Being aware that impossibilities can turn into possibilities and the disadvantages into great advantages, he proclaims the Name of the Lord, his Mighty Lord. Michael is not ashamed of himself any longer, because he knows: "I am made with a purpose." Now he can swim, make his own breakfast, he drives a car, feeds his dog and enjoys the abundance of life every day. He earns his living by giving lectures and witnessing of God in universities, schools, anywhere he is invited."

Why has this story reached us just in these days? The chairlady of the "Handicapped People Club for Balchik and Environment" and I met one another about two years ago; co-incidentally???

She asked for some very little support for Christmas gifts to surprise the handicapped children in Balchik. Mr.Leo and Mrs. Henny Mostert, two Dutch friends since 1993, left money to be used for Christmas gifts and they gladly allowed us to use it for these handicapped children.

Since almost two years, our young church in Balchik are developing a ministry under the physically disabled children, youth, and adults. Mr. Leo and Mrs. Henny Mostert have shown their interest in these disabled people and support that part of our ministry in daily prayer and by possible donations from their friends in Holland.

It is a heart breaking and a heart taking ministry. Like Michael, all the disabled children, youth, and adults, too, are struggling with their physical and spiritual needs. They, too, were born to us with the purpose to become witnesses. Another reason may be

testing our sincerity and sensitivity about their needs in spirit, their needs for love and acceptance. They were certainly brought to us that we will prove our love to God by serving Him and making Him known as the Great Providence to people in need.

We thank our Lord that He brought forward people to give freely to people they never met. The people here often say: "How can it be that people who don't know us are helping in such a perfect way?" By their contribution we have been made able to serve in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Two weeks ago we distributed 3 wheelchairs to disabled people, 2 lavatory chairs and 130 bed sheets. We select the people who are in the greatest need and who are willing to sign a document that they will return the materials when they are no longer needed.

The wheelchairs were given to:
Todorina—32 years old; diagnosed with MS when she was 6 years old. Her parents take care of her. She loves listening to music and watching television.

Nicola—19 years old; born with MS. His mother is taking care of him. He, too, loves music and movies.

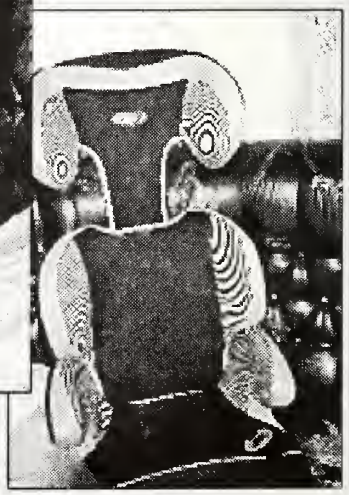
Alper—19 years old; born with Cerebral Palsy. His father is a shoemaker. His mother takes care of him.

Three more wheelchairs will be distributed to people in nearby villages. The bed sheets will be donated to 70 disabled people.

We pray that the Lord will use us to touch the lives of these people and their families, that they, too, will taste of the living water which Jesus Christ offers to all who come to accept and to love Him. We pray to become eye witnesses where God turns the disadvantages into possibilities.

"We can do anything through Christ who gives us strength."

Amen.



From top to bottom:

Todorina—32 years old; diagnosed with MS when she was 6 years old. Her parents take care of her. She loves listening to music and watching television.

Todorina's mother and her new wheelchair.

Nicola—19 years old; born with MS. His mother is taking care of him. He, too, loves music and movies.

Mother of Nicola with his new wheelchair.

Alper—19 years old; born with Cerebral Palsy. His father is a shoemaker. His mother takes care for him.

A special seat given to Alper.

Foreign Missions Annual Telethon

TELETHON SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2008

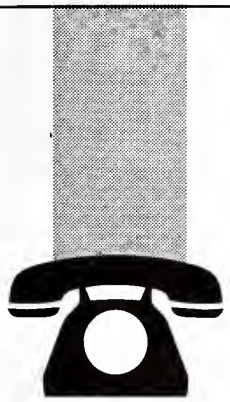
THEME:

"THE VALUE OF ONE SOUL?"

THEME VERSE: MATTHEW 16:26

**"FOR WHAT IS A MAN PROFITED,
IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD,
AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL?
OR WHAT SHALL A
MAN GIVE IN EXCHANGE
FOR HIS SOUL?"**

WHICH IS MORE VALUABLE, THE WHOLE WORLD OR ONE SOUL?
If one soul is our answer, how should this be reflected in our giving to reach them with the Gospel of Jesus?



Goal 2008: A total of $225,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.

This goal can easily be reached if we truly realize the value of one soul and give generously with that in mind.

PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL
Call in your special offering between 1:30 and 5:00 P.M.
Dial (252) 746-4963. Your generous gift and call on Telethon Sunday will reach the priceless souls of many around the world.

ONE OF THE GREATEST JOYS OF LIFE IS TO GIVE UNSELFISHLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS MARCH 16, 2008.
True prayer longs for a deeper relationship with God and understands the value of one soul.

PRAYER GOAL MARCH 16, 2008:
All churches joining together in united prayer during the Morning Worship Hour in one accord for revival. LET US PRAY!

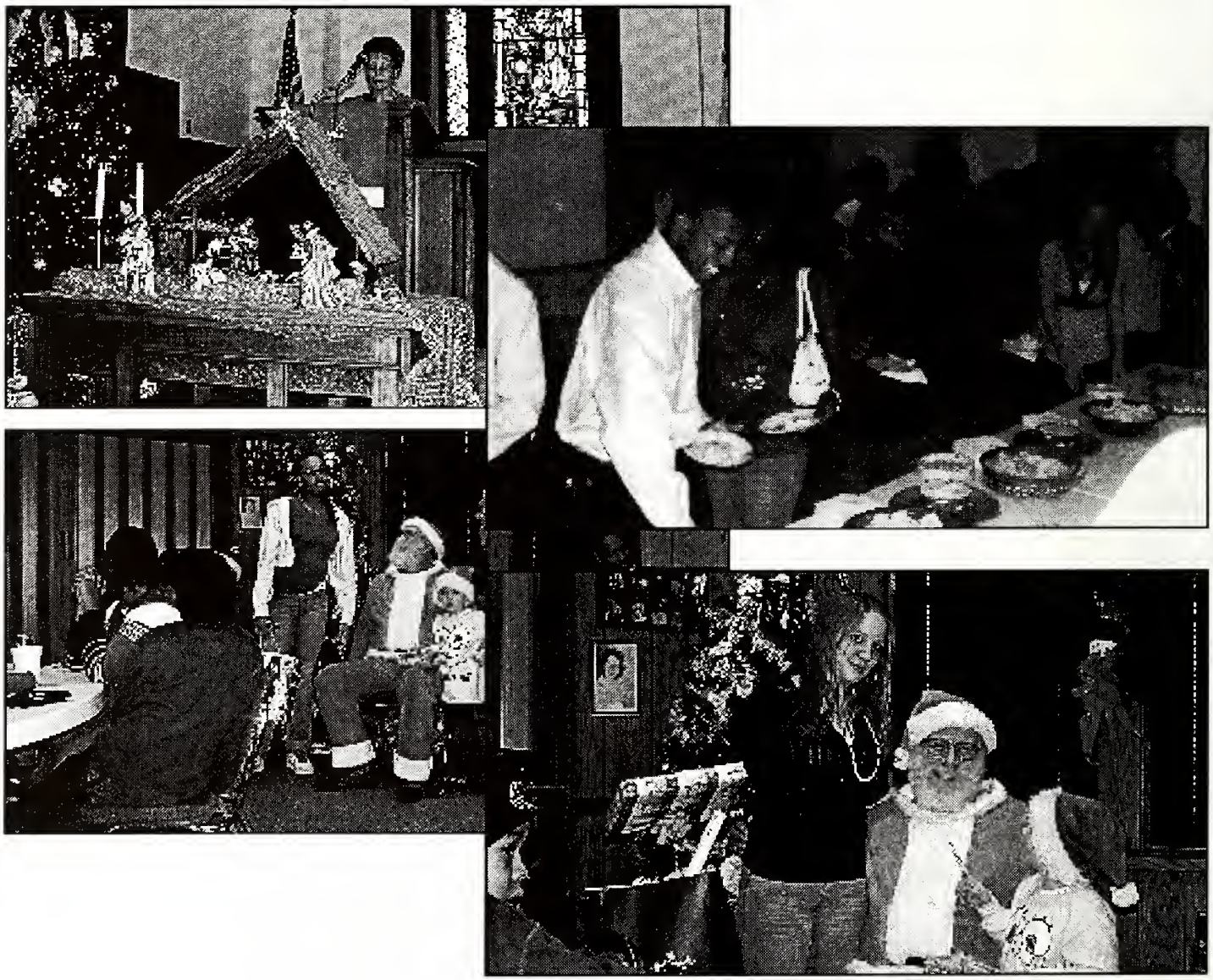
OFWB INTERNATIONAL
BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
(OFWB INTERNATIONAL)
POST OFFICE BOX 39
AYDEN, NORTH CAROLINA 28513 (252) 746-4963

CHRISTMAS 2007

Christmas has come and gone, but the memories still linger. There is an outpouring of love and support for the children all through the year, and especially at Christmas. Along with the normal day-to-day activities, the Christmas season brought a flurry of visitors and gifts.

In mid-December, the cottages came together at Memorial Chapel to present a program. There were poems written by the children that were shared, as well as singing and Scripture readings. The programs and gift sharing served as a reminder to each child at the Children's Home that they are each individually special in God's eyes, and special to the many thoughtful people in the Free Will Baptist Denomination, as well as other individuals and groups. Some of the sharing was captured in the photos below.

Thanks for helping make Christmas 2007 a joyous time of celebration and remembrance of that first Christmas so many years ago when the perfect gift, Jesus Christ, was born.



HOME ANNOUNCES HINNANT ENDOWMENT

We are pleased to announce the Willard B. and Kathleen Hinnant Endowment. Mr. and Mrs. Hinnant are longstanding supporters of the Children's Home. In June 2002, they contacted Bobby Taylor about opportunities to provide future funding for the children, with specific interest in providing educational scholarships. The Hinnant Endowment was established to render financial assistance to the Free Will Baptist Children's Home through providing educational scholarships to children attending an institution of education or training. Due to Dr. Taylor's retirement, and with the Hinnant's permission, the endowment is being publicly acknowledged at this time.

We are thankful to have people such as Willard and Kathleen who have such great vision and commitment to the cause of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.

For the Children's Home to remain a strong, viable ministry, and to grow, both in the number of children and families served and in the range of services provided, permanent funding is needed.

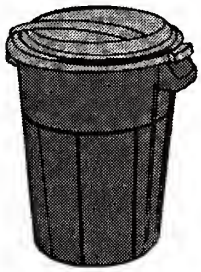
The establishment of an endowment begins a solid foundation of continual financial support for the future of the Home. The principle of endowments is held in perpetuity and only the income is used for the stated purpose.

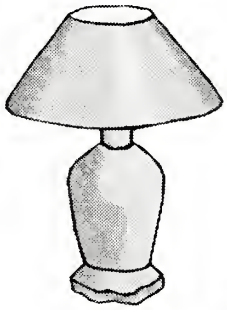
Families may establish their own endowment with a one-time gift or make contributions to the endowment when it is most convenient.

If you desire information on establishing a family endowment fund, please contact our President/CEO.

Needs List

- Laundry Detergent
- Cleaning Supplies
- Dish Detergent
- Personal Hygiene Items (boys and girls)
- (3) RCA Widescreen Projection HDTV w/digital tuner (call for details)
- (5) Heavy Duty Cookware sets
- Living room and Bedroom Lamps
- Large Artificial Green Plants (ferns) for Church
- 33 gallon trash receptacles and trash bags
- Dry foods and canned goods





PASTOR/DEACON

During the Minister's Conference, Dr. Burkette Raper spoke on "Identifying those qualities and characteristics that distinguish Original Free Will Baptists from all other Baptist groups." The paper that Dr. Raper presented was well received, so much so that many pastors who have attended the Pastor/Deacon retreat in the past requested that their deacons be given the opportunity to hear an expanded form of his paper. Therefore, the 2008 Pastor/Deacon retreat will feature Dr. Burkette Raper discussing how our doctrine is different from that of other Baptist groups. Pastors and Deacons need to know how to effectively communicate to those seeking to unite with our churches the differences that exist in our denominations. The dates for the retreat are April 17–19, 2008. To register, please contact Arlinda or Phyllis via our toll free number (877) 669-7677. Please do not email! The cost is: main building, motel, or lodge $120 per person and dorm $95 per person. We are taking registrations now. This is going to be an exciting event.

CRAGMONT 2008 SCHEDULE

Morning Star
March 28–30, 2008
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Christian Cadet Conference
June 16–21, 2008
Wes Boyd
789 Riverbend Road
Goldsboro, NC 27530
(919) 736-9436

Bed, Breakfast, & Blessing
July 3–7, 2008
Cragmont Assembly
1233 North Fork Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(877) 669-7677

Young People's Bible Conference
July 21–25, 2008
Chuck Owens
1071 Gurley Dairy Road
Pikeville, NC 27863
(919) 734-3320

September Woman's Mini Conference
September 19–21, 2008
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Ministerial Association of OFWB
June 2–4, 2008
John Hill
312 Pineview Street
Lucama, NC 27851
(252) 239-1958

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA/AFC)
June 23–28, 2008
Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-7850

General Youth II Conference
July 7–12, 2008
John Robert Harris/Brad Williamson
PO Box 1141
Kinston, NC 28503
(252) 522-4505

August Woman's Aux. Conference
July 27–August 1, 2008
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Day Spring Conference
June 4–7, 2008
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Cragmont Youth Conference
June 29–July 3, 2008
Angela Mattox
4711 Edgewood Dr.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 637-5345

General Youth I Conference
July 14–19, 2008
Bryant Hines
2407 Wild Turkey Road
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 633-2683

Pee Dee Youth Conference
August 4–7, 2008
Bryant Hines
2407 Wild Turkey Road
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 633-2683

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING FOR THOSE HOLDING MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHURCH FINANCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2008.

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the membership of the Church Finance Association, Inc. will be held as follows:

- Place: Murphy Center, Hennessee Room
- Mount Olive College
- Date: February 12, 2008
- Time: 10:30 A.M.

The purpose of this meeting is:

- To review the financial condition of the Association and to act on the financial report.
- The election of one (1) member of the Board Of Directors to hold office for a term of five years.
- The transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

You are urged to attend the meeting in person. However, membership holders who do not expect to attend are requested to sign, date, and return the proxy provided. The execution of this proxy will not affect your right to revoke such proxy or to vote in person should you later decide to attend the meeting.

By order of the board of directors,
Hubert S. Burress, Secretary

HAPPY DAYS

After 25 years as Manager of the Mount Olive College Bookstore, Tharen "Happy" Taylor has retired. Her last day at the College was January 25.

Happy, as her grandfather dubbed her, came to manage the Mount Olive College Bookstore in October of 1982 at the request of Dr. Burkette Raper, then President of the College. Her husband, John, had joined the College in August of that same year as Assistant Maintenance Superintendant.

"It was a good decision," Happy recalled. But at the time, she may not have thought so. "I had never seen the Bookstore until the day I came to work, and when I walked in, I cried," she said.

Located on the downtown campus, the Bookstore was in a small room at the back of the building.

"Boxes of books were sitting everywhere," she vividly recalls. "I began first by taking down the drapes, cleaning windows, and sorting out the merchandise. John found some crates and made clothing racks and a few small book cases. Mr. Reynolds, Assistant to the Business Manager at that time, encouraged and helped me so much during those early days. He came into the Bookstore during the midst of cleaning and re-arranging and said, 'I am glad to see that you have buckled in and put your personality into your work.' That is exactly what I have tried to do all these years and it has been fun," Taylor said.

In the early years, the Bookstore carried a small line of clothing, a few supplies, and, of course, text books. Then in the summer of 1991, the Bookstore was moved into the Poole Administration Building. If moving was not enough of a challenge, just as the last book shelf was brought into the building, it began to rain and continued for a week.

"The yards had not been landscaped and I would park over in the College Hall parking lot, put on my boots and walk over in the mud," Happy smiled.

Happy remembers other progress at the College as well. She recalls sitting in her office and listening to the pilings being driven at College Hall, now Kornegay Arena. From her window in the Bookstore, she saw the daily progress of the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center being constructed. She watched the music suite renovations. She was here when Mount Olive College was accredited as a four-year institution. She watched the most recent construction of three new buildings on campus. And, she has seen and

Spouse:
John Wesley Taylor, Sr.—married 56 years

Children:
J. Wesley Taylor, Jr. and Lawanna D. Whitfield

Grandchildren:
Jennifer Taylor Whitfield, Anna Caroline Whitfield, William Whitfield IV and John Alexander Taylor

Home:
Deep Run, NC

Church:
Smith's New Home Original Free Will Baptist

Interests:
Reading and sewing

Recognitions:
1975 Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Life Membership Award
1986 State Woman's Auxiliary Convention Life Membership Award
2001 Smith's New Home Original Free Will Baptist Auxiliary Woman of the Year

enjoyed the growth of the academic and athletic programs during her time at Mount Olive College.

"It has been an exciting and a great time to be a part of the College," she said.

For Happy, the biggest challenge that she has had as Manager of the Bookstore has been keeping up with the growing demand for books and apparel. Taking in over $2 million in sales annually, Happy no longer orders books by the semester. Rather, she continually orders and stocks shelves for the year-round programs offered at all six Mount Olive College locations.

When asked what she has enjoyed most about her career, Happy had much to say. "Oh, I enjoy the students. I enjoy my co-workers. I enjoy the parents who visit this campus. I enjoy alumni returning and coming by just to see me and always saying, 'You haven't retired yet?'"

To those alumni, Happy will be saying, "It won't be long now." One thing is for sure, her bubbly personality, which perfectly matches her name, will be missed in the Mount Olive College Bookstore.

During her much deserved and long-awaited retirement, Happy plans to travel, spend more time with her family and possibly even take some college courses. Both of her children are alumni of MOC, and the family ties to the College do not stop there. An endowment, established in honor of Happy and her husband, continues to provide a way for future students. The John W. and Tharen "Happy" Riggs Taylor Endowed Scholarship Fund assists deserving students who are pursuing a degree in business or education. For more information on how to honor Happy on her retirement, please contact Jeff Daughtry, Director of Planned Giving at <jdaughtry@moc.edu> or (919) 658-7831.

The Mount Olive College Alumni Association

requests the pleasure of your company
for an elegant evening of dining and entertainment with

Freddie Pierce—*Master of Ceremonies*
Tom Casey—*Reception and Dinner Music*
John Clifton—*The Best of Broadway*

at the

"Winter Glitz"

An Evening in Central Park

Saturday, the sixteenth of February
two thousand and eight
six o'clock in the evening
Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
Mount Olive College

Proceeds to benefit student scholarships—Silent Auction
Black Tie Optional

Please Respond

Please RSVP to Brenda Edwards by January 25, 2008
For more information, call (919) 658-7800 or email <bedwards@moc.edu>.
Winter Glitz evening $50 per person or $375 for a table of 8

CHURCH DINNER PROGRAM SETS NEW RECORD

"It is with deep gratitude to the Original Free Will Baptist Church that we present the best report in the history of the dinners," stated Jean F. Ackiss, director of Church Support in talking about the FWB Church Dinner program that has been providing financial support to the College for more than 44 years.

During the fall of each year MOC hosts 18 county dinners in a 4 month period. It takes an army of dedicated volunteers, 430 to be exact, to pull it all together. There are locations to secure, entertainment to plan for, meals to order, literature to design, and hundreds of calls to make. But according to Ackiss the rewards far out weigh all the work involved.

"These dinners are a way for MOC to minister with the FWB Church, our founding body. It is also an opportunity for our students to shine, and for us to provide an update on how we are transforming the lives of the students we serve," she stated.

According to Ackiss over 2,400 donors contributed to this year's dinner program, bringing this year's total to more than $529,484, a 4.28 percent increase from 2006. Of those contributing, 2,194 were designated as Bridge Builders, (donors giving $100 or more at the dinner) which was an increase of 113 Bridge Builders from the previous year.

"The dinner program has done more to develop and continue the relationship with the FWB Church than any other program at the College, and for that we are very thankful," Ackiss concluded.

Free Will Baptists in Greene County increased their gifts by $5,764 at the 2007 Greene County Dinner. Out of 18 church dinners, Greene County had the largest increase in its support to the College. Pictured left to right: Dr. J. William Byrd, President; Genevieve Taylor, County Co-chairwoman; Hortense Beaman, local Chairwoman; Angie Stocks, local chairwoman; and Randy Beaman, County Co-chairman.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Save the Date

for

The 25th Annual

BASKETBALL CHURCH NIGHT

Saturday, February 9, 2008

MOC Women vs. Lees-McRae College, 5:00 p.m., Kornegay Arena
MOC Men vs. Lees-McRae College, 7:00 p.m., Kornegay Arena

- **Special recognition** to church with the largest attendance
- **Pitching competition** during halftime of Lady Trojans game
- **Shoot-Out competition** during halftime of Men's game

Competition will be divided into three groups:
Grades K-6, Grades 7-12, and Youth Pastors

Special tickets: $1.00
To reserve your tickets, call Tim Woodard or Brad Evans today!

(919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854

Visit the MOC Bookstore in the Poole Administration Building from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
All clothing will be 15% off.

Mount Olive College

Report of 2007 Free Will Baptist Church Dinner Program

as of January 3, 2008

County	Bridge Builders	Gifts	Bridge Builders	Gifts	Goal	Over/ Under	County Chairman
Beaufort	56	$12,151	54	$10,969	$12,450	-$1,481	Billy Gurkin
Carteret	71	11,935	68	10,696	12,850	-2,154	Ricky Benson and Edgar Pake, Jr.
Craven	90	22,025	102	22,694	22,550	144	Julie Wetherington Cox
Duplin	75	19,956	70	19,925	21,050	-1,125	Tommy Benson
Edgecombe	81	12,231	82	12,810	12,225	585	Ray Williamson
Greene	209	52,206	235	57,970	52,925	5,045	Randy Beaman & Genevieve M. Taylor
Johnston-Wake	222	58,747	231	60,422	58,800	1,622	Keenan Hinnant & Dee Farmer
Jones	39	8,460	37	8,600	8,550	50	Gene Burkett
Lenoir	161	28,463	182	32,550	28,900	3,650	Cleo S. Hinson
Nash	41	8,850	36	7,350	9,075	-1,725	John R. Manning
Onslow-Brunswick	23	3,630	18	3,160	4,100	-940	Ronnie Parker
Pamlico	32	7,285	30	7,055	8,225	-1,170	Joy Caroon & Michael Bryan
Pee Dee	49	9,392	66	11,152	9,400	1,752	Danny McPherson
Pitt	219	47,469	236	51,865	48,075	3,790	William Moore
Samp, Harn, Cumb	183	50,235	200	49,975	50,725	-750	Ricky Warren
Wash, Mart, Tyrr, Pasq	70	20,671	86	23,575	21,300	2,275	Lloyd W. Jones, Jr.
Wayne	228	84,175	221	87,686	84,275	3,411	Barbara Lancaster
Wilson	232	49,876	240	51,030	50,800	230	Johnny Sullivan
Total	**2,081**	**$507,757**	**2,194**	**$529,484**	**$516,275**	**$13,209**	

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE FALL COMMENCEMENT HELD

The fall 2007 graduating class at Mount Olive College was challenged to have passion in life. The commencement address was delivered by Jeffrey Miles Minges, president and chief executive officer of the Minges Bottling Group, a Pepsi Cola distributor.

In addressing the graduates, Minges said, "The word passion, regardless of what context it's used, is a recipe for success. It fuels the drive and ambition in all of us to excel and obtain our goals." He went on to tell the graduates that life is filled with excitement, opportunity, and adversity.

Minges learned about adversity early in his career. In September of 1972, the family business was completely destroyed by fire.

"It was a turning moment in my life," Minges stated. "It was grow up quick time, learn and help my father rebound from disaster."

Minges saw his father, Hoyt A. Minges, work under extreme pressure, with great optimism for the future of the company.

"He led us to a better day," Minges remarked. "At this point I realized I wanted to become a leader in the business and be the business man my father was."

Minges learned how to build a plant and put in a bottling line from the ground up. In September of 1973, they opened their new, bigger and better plant and never missed a beat.

Bringing it all into perspective for the graduates, Minges said, "Always remember it's how you handle adversity which will define your character and leadership as a person."

The 54th graduation ceremony at Mount Olive College was held in Kornegay Arena. Of the 374 graduating seniors 121 were from the Mount Olive campus, 34 were from the Goldsboro location, 61 were from the New Bern location, 70 were from the Research Triangle Park location, 41 were from the Wilmington location and 47 were from the College's Washington location.

Dr. J. William Byrd, president of MOC, challenged the graduates to be agents for change. "We live in a world of change, and our world needs to change," he said. He went on to note that there are 8,700 people born each hour onto a crowded planet which is struggling to provide the resources to sustain the population that is already present. "So there is work to be done, opportunities to make a difference, the need to be compassionate and the obligation to utilize the talents and education that you possess to lift society to a higher plane," he said. "We are glad that you chose Mount Olive College. You are forever a part of the fabric of this place, sharing a destiny with all of your fellow alumni and other graduates who will follow you. Working together, we can build a brighter future for you, your family, this College, and our world," Byrd concluded.

Graduates at Mount Olive College's 54th Commencement were all smiles on Saturday.

Shauna Cowdrey (left) and Stephanie Thompson (right) decorated their mortar boards for the occasion.

MOC ALUMNI BLOG

MOC Alumni—Want to keep in touch with former classmates and friends? Check out the beginnings of your brand new BLOG found at <www.mocalumni.org/home>. You can read and write comments to postings, as well as view pictures in the photo gallery. "I hope you enjoy this new communication tool," stated Dianne Riley, Director of Alumni Relations at MOC. "Griff Griffin '04 of MO Cohort 20, an alumni board member, is the monitor for our new 'BLOG,'" Riley said.

STEVENSON DONATES BOOKS TO MOC

Mount Olive College Alumnus George Stevenson recently donated 619 volumes of books to Moye Library.

The donation consists of 566 titles bound in 619 volumes. Topics of the books include historical biographies, seventeenth and eighteenth century economics and politics, histories and historical source material of Virginia, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Also included are published abstracts and transcriptions of records of several eastern North Carolina counties, and some North Carolina local histories.

"This collection of books is a significant contribution to our library," stated Pam Wood, director of Library Services, "because of the variety of topics, such as William Blake's poetry, the Cherokee Indians, European history, and particularly the North Carolina materials." "Some of the titles are now out of print, so it would be difficult for us to obtain copies," she continued.

Stevenson has long been connected to Mount Olive College and to the Free Will Baptist denomination. Stevenson and his siblings grew up in the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Middlesex following the death of their mother. He attended MOC in the late 1950s, and while there did much to foster the growth and well being of The Free Will Baptist Historical Collection, the largest known repository of Free Will Baptist artifacts.

After graduating from MOC, Stevenson continued his studies at UNC-Chapel Hill and worked with the North Carolina Collection before returning to Mount Olive College as a cataloguer in the late 1960s. Currently, he is employed in the Special Collections Branch of the North Carolina Department of Archives and History.

CAMPUS CLUB REMIX

Founded by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, Mount Olive College had a rare chance last semester to bring together a number of different clubs on campus for a time of fellowship and common purpose.

These organizations included Big Coffee, Campus Crusade for Christ (C3), Thursday Night Worship, Monday Night Prayer, Praise Ensemble (Gospel Choir), Students Theological Fellowship (STF), Fellowship Christian Students (FCS), Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), and The Power of G.R.A.C.E. (God's Riches at Christ's Expense) Band.

An evening of student worship and spiritual bonding ensued as the leaders representing each club gave testimonies and information about their work on campus. Members of the audience were given a first-hand look at the opportunities to socialize and build on a foundation of faith while attending MOC.

Singular in goals and passion, all of the clubs present wanted to impress upon students that one club is not better than any other. Instead, the idea of coming together to praise and learn was a welcome change and showed that everyone works for the same purpose.

MOC students are invited to attend one or all of these amazing outreaches that are offered and encouraged to bring a friend.

MOC RECEIVES GRANT FOR FITNESS PROGRAM DESIGNED TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH

Mount Olive College has been awarded a $280,000 grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust. The money will be used for the College's new program, Fitness by Design (FBD).

FBD is a regionally focused program of the Pope Wellness Center at Mount Olive College that targets at risk families from Wayne, Duplin, and Sampson Counties. The central goal of FBD is to change the lifestyle of poor and underserved clients in ways that significantly reduce health risks from obesity, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes. The central components of FBD include: nutritional fitness, exercise fitness, and social fitness.

"The population of eastern North Carolina is at risk from a variety of health factors," stated Dr. Chris Dyer, dean for the School of Arts and Sciences at MOC and one of the FBD program collaborators. "When compounded with poverty, poor diet, and inadequate health care and wellness education, this region is ranked as one of the unhealthiest in the country."

According to Dyer, the FBD program will recruit clients from local communities in the target areas based on referrals, community outreach, and advertisement with local collaborating health care providers including Mount Olive Family Medical Center, the Duplin County Health Department, and the Wayne County Health Department. During the seven-year program, the College seeks to engage 60 clients the first year, with an additional 40 clients added each additional year for a total of 300 over the span of the program.

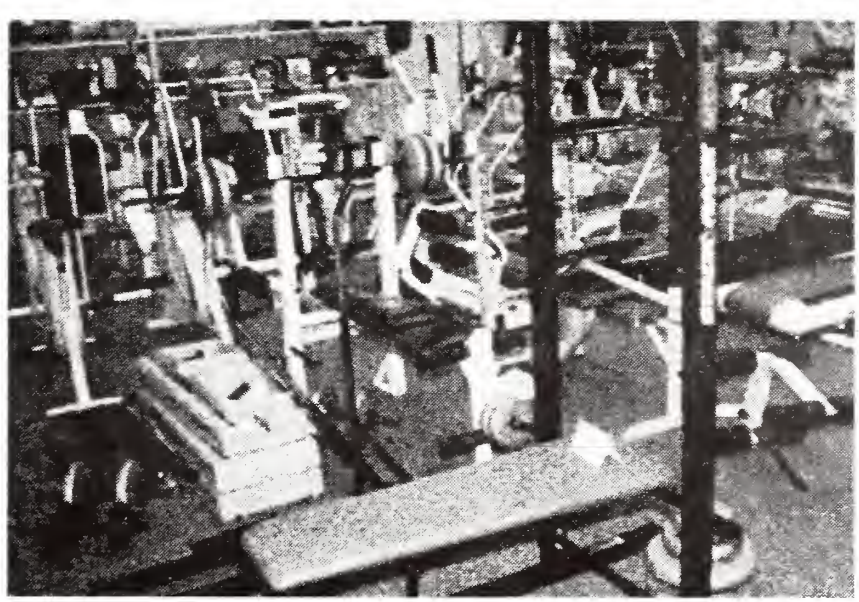
The College plans to use "Fitness Buddies," to mentor, motivate, and support clients through individually tailored exercise programs. The Fitness Buddies, who will be students from the College's Recreation and Leisure Studies program, will track client progress, motivate clients to sustain participation, and be points of contact to engage them in nutritional and social fitness components.

A licensed nutritional therapist will run the Nutritional component of the program. The social component will be led by specially trained recreation and leisure studies students, with a special program—the Fitness Garden, managed by the Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center at MOC.

"Each of these components has been designed to support an overall improvement in health and quality of life for participants," Dyer stated. "We have taken the approach that obesity, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes are causally related, and to achieve long-term improvements in comprehensive wellness a holistic preventative health care model is needed."

Dr. Hervy B. Kornegay, medical director of Duplin County Health Department, remarked of the Fitness by Design Project, "Done right, this can serve as a model for the whole country and be replicated to help attack the medical pandemics we are facing in all levels of our society."

In addition to funding by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, Mount Olive College is seeking funding from other sources to sustain the program.



CAB EVENTS AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

The Mount Olive College Campus Activities Board (CAB) is an energetic club that offers out-of-the box ideas for student programs such as concerts, bonfires, and pageants.

Last year, CAB sponsored a trip to Boston, Massachusetts for eighteen students. Taken during the fall break, the trip included five days of touring and learning about American history and heritage, which gave the group a unique experience outside of the classrooms.

Participants, under the leadership of Julie Beck, director of student activities at MOC, visited Harvard University, Boston Commons, John Hancock Towers, the Boston Massacre Site, Commonwealth Avenue, Prudential Center, Newberry Street, and Trinity Church to name a few. While on the famous Freedom Trail, students got a firsthand look at the State House, Granary Burying Ground, Kings Chapel, Old South Meeting Hall, Old State House, the Paul Revere House, and Bunker Hill.

In the midst of all the educational sights and tours, the students had an opportunity to have fun as well. According to Sarah Finch, a senior at MOC, one the best excursions of the weekend was a surprise trip to the Boston Harbor, where the students took a deep-sea cruise.

"Freezing temperatures could not take away from the amazing feeling of speeding out to sea and watching the whales play in the water," she stated.

Another exciting activity was a Duck Tour, which consisted of riding in a specially designed military vehicle that could change from land to water with just a few gears. This brought the group even closer to the infamous sites of Boston streets and the harbor itself.

The Mount Olive College Campus Activities Board plans and coordinates a schedule of major activities and events for students throughout the semester, including movies, carnivals, festivals, and lectures. The purpose of CAB is to build a unified community at MOC through the success of diverse, quality, and inspired activities led by the dedication and leadership of its members.

MR. AND MS. DILL

In 2005 Mount Olive College added a new competition to its Pickle Classic festivities. In addition to two students being named Pickle Classic King and Queen, the student body selects and votes on a Mr. and Ms. Dill to reign during the Pickle Classic Weekend. The winners are selected from the faculty and staff. This year's Ms. Pickle Classic is Dr. Brenda Cates, professor of mathematics at MOC. Mr. Pickle Classic is Dr. David Hines, chairman of the Department of Religion at MOC. Pictured (L-R) Kay Fail, 2006 Ms. Dill; Brenda Cates, 2007 Ms. Dill; David Hines, 2007 Mr. Dill and Tim Woodard, 2006 Mr. Dill.

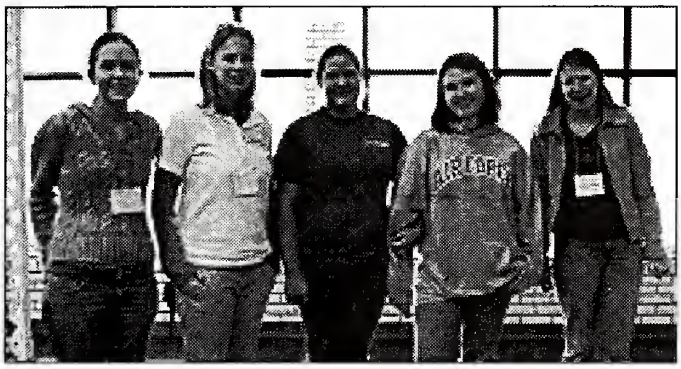
NELDA SMITH—FORTY YEARS AT MOC

January 2 marked the 40th employment anniversary for Nelda Smith, payroll coordinator at Mount Olive College. Smith began working at the College in 1968 as bookkeeper.

"Mount Olive College has been good to me and for me," Smith said. Smith, who will be 82 on February 1, has no thoughts of retirement. "I enjoy the people I work with and the things that I do, and I don't want to give that up," she smiled.

Nelda was married to the late William Harris Smith, who was the nephew of the late Reverend S. A. (Pa) Smith. They had three daughters, Caroline Phillips, Cindy Parker, and Melody Wilson and five grandchildren. Smith lives in the Indian Springs Community of Mount Olive.

On Tuesday the College recognized Smith with a surprise party in honor of her long tenure.



PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS VISIT MOC

On November 12th, 2007, Mount Olive College hosted a Visitation Day for prospective High School students. Pictured here are Free Will Baptist students.

From left to right are: Kasey Rouse, Kristi Wiley, Kathy Howard, Taylor Romanauskas, and Elizabeth Pierce.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE—COMING EVENTS

Four For One • February 12 • Southern Bank Auditorium

The Mount Olive College Recital Series presents 'Four For One' on Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 PM in Southern Bank Auditorium. 'Four For One' is a jazz quartet. For more information about these artists, visit <www.eleganzamusic.net>. The event is $5 and the public is invited to attend. For more information about the Recital Series at Mount Olive College, contact Brian Watson at (919) 658-2502.

Growing Roses • February 14 • Hennessee Room

Growing Roses is the topic of the February 14 meeting of the lunch-and-learn series entitled *Growing to Serve You*. It is a 45-minute presentation that will take place in the Hennessee Room of the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center from noon to 12:45 P.M. and will be led by Jessica Hyatt, horticulture extension agent with the Wayne County Cooperative Extension Center. Open to all students, faculty, staff, and the public, there is no cost for the series; attendees are encouraged to bring a bag lunch or to go through the College's cafeteria line (Cost $5.00 for general public). For more information, please call the Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center at (919) 658-7510.

Winter Glitz—An Evening In Central Park • February 16 • Lois K. Murphy Regional Center

Mount Olive College Alumni Association presents the first "Winter Glitz—An Evening In Central Park" on Saturday, February 16, 2008 at the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. There will be entertainment at its best, fabulous food, and a silent auction, all proceeds benefiting student scholarships. For more information, contact Dianne Riley at (919) 658-7761.

Home Missions & Evangelism

We would like to

show you

what we are doing through Home Missions & Evangelism

CHURCH PLANTING

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- H'mongs – 2 youth camps
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HARVEST COVENANT

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- Daly's Chapel – LaGrange, NC
- Faith – Morehead City, NC

LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY

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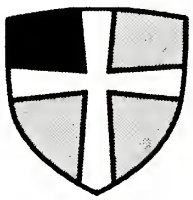
a representative of Home Missions & Evangelism an opportunity to visit your church, youth group, Woman's Auxiliary, Layman's League or Sunday School to share our ministry of TOUCHING LIVES FOR A LIFETIME. Contact us at PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513 or (252)746-4963 or assistant@ofwbhomemissions.org.

God&Country SERIES

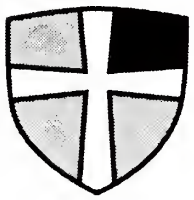
"Earn all four awards and become a four star recipient!"



God and Me Student Workbook (grades 1-3) #33604A

God and Me Counselor Manual (for the pastor) #33603B

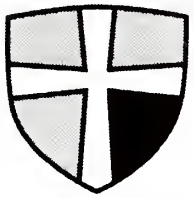
God and Me Adult Mentor Workbook (for the parents) #33606A



God and Family Student Workbook (grades 4-5) #33597A

God and Family Counselor Manual (for the pastor) #33598B

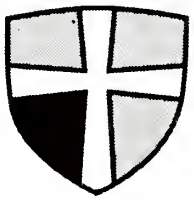
God and Family Adult Mentor Workbook (for the parents) #33595A



God and Church Student Workbook (grades 6-8) #33599A

God and Church Counselor Manual (for the pastor) #33600A

God and Church Adult Mentor Workbook (for the parents) #33596A



God and Life Student Workbook (grades 9-12) #33609A

God and Life Counselor Manual (for the pastor) #33610A

God and Life Adult Mentor Workbook (for the parents) #33605A

More than just an Award

- **Discipleship**—God and Country is Bible-based curriculum which requires students to put their faith into action through service projects working under the supervision of a counselor and/or mentor.
- **Family Ministry**—God and Country is intentional about parents and children sharing their faith through family projects.
- **Outreach**—ALL youth (noy just Scouts) are eligible for this program.

Board of Home Missions & Evangelism

P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-4963
Fax (252) 746-8913

assistant@fwbhomemissions.org

CONVENTION NOMINATION PROCEDURES

An announcement of vacancies to be filled at the 2008 Convention is being made to the boards and committee of the Convention, churches and ministers, and in the the *Free Will Baptist*, inviting recommendations. Recommendations must include the nominee's name, church membership, and occupation. Recommendations should also include a short paragraph descibing the qualifications the person would bring to the board, committee, or office. We also require the name of the person, church, or group submitting the name. Recommendations will need to be recieved through April 7, 2008. The nominating committee will make its decision, contact persons nominated, and prepare a written report to be distributed at the Convention.

Vacancies to be filled at the 2008 Convention

(Ending terms for the respective vacancies listed in parenthesis)

- **Officers:**
  Convention President (2010)
  Convention Vice President (2010)
- **Executive Committee:**
  Central Conference Representative (2010)
  Cape Fear Conference Representative (2010)
  Eastern Conference Representative (2010)
- **Children's Home Board** (2012)
  [3 vacancies]
- **Church Finance Association Representative** (2009)
  [1 vacancy]
- **Commission on Youth & Student Ministry**
  [No vacancies until 2009]
- **Cragmont Assembly** (2011)
  [2 vacancies]
- **Foreign Missions** (2013)
  [1 vacancy]
- **F.W.B. Press Representative** (2009)
  [1 vacancy]
- **Home Missions** (2015)
  [1 vacancy]
- **Ministers Program** (2013)
  [1 vacancy]
- **Mount Olive College** (2014)
  [5 vacancies]
- **Retirement Homes Ministries** (2013)
  [2 vacancies]
- **Convention Board of Trustees** (2011)
  [1 vacancy]
- **Chaplains Commission** (2013)
  [1 vacancy]
- **Historical Commission** (2011)
  [1 vacancy]
- **Layman's League Board** (2011)
  [4 vacancies]
- **Sunday School Board** (2011)
  [3 vacancies]

I would like to recommend

_____

for consideration by the Nominating Committee to fill the vacancy on the

_____

(*please give name of Board, Committee, or Commission*)

Please provide the following information on the nominee and mail the completed form to:

Ray Wells
6661 Rock Ridge School Rd.
Sims, N. C. 27880

Forms should be postmarked no later than April 7, 2008. Nominations may also be made from the floor of the convention.

Church Membership: _____

Conference Membership: _____
(*if nominee is Original Free Will Baptist*)

Occupation: _____

Phone number of person being recommended: _____

Qualifications this person would bring to the position:

_____

Have you talked with the nominee about their willingness to serve if selected? Y ____ N ____

Signature and date of the person or group making the recommendation

_____

"For even hereunto were ye called: Because Christ also suffered for us, Leaving us an example, That we should follow his steps (1 Peter 2:21).

FOUNDATION BEGINS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS PREPARING FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Beginning with the 2007–2008 academic year, The North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries has expanded its program of scholarships to include undergraduate students preparing for Christian ministry at any location of Mount Olive College, whether traditional or modular. Through these scholarships, the objective of the Foundation is to help bridge the gap between the cost of enrollment and scholarships otherwise available.

The undergraduate scholarships are in addition to those already being provided for graduate students in divinity school and seminary.

A major goal of the Foundation is to encourage and assist those who are called to Christian ministry to equip themselves for excellence in fulfilling their calling. The Foundation seeks to help remove the financial barrier to an education not only for licensed and ordained ministers, but also for those called to other vocations in Christian ministry, including youth directors, church music, Christian education, and employment with the various ministries of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

Shown receiving the first undergraduate scholarship in Christian ministry from the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries is Adam Lee Williams of Goldsboro, third from left. Making the presentation to Mrs. Katrina Lee, Director of Financial Aid at Mount Olive College is Dr. W. Burkette Raper, president of the Foundation (far left). On the far right is Dr. David Hines, chairman of the department of religion at the College.

The scholarship is funded by the Donnie E. and Linda Vann Lassiter Family Endowment with the Foundation.

Williams, a junior at Mount Olive, is a member of Stoney Creek Original Free Will Baptist Church, where he is an intern for the youth ministry of the church under the tutelage of the Reverend Gary M. Bailey, pastor.

In describing his goals in Christian ministry, Williams wrote: "May I first say that the only thing I want to do in this life is what God wills for me. I believe that discerning what God's will is for one's life is just a major part of the journey. A desire and a passion that God has placed in my heart is to see and help teenagers grow toward a relationship with Jesus Christ. There's nothing more in the world that makes me smile than to see teenagers completely surrender their lives to Jesus. So becoming a youth pastor is definitely a goal that I feel God has placed in my life."

APPLICATION FOR FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Application forms and information on procedures regarding scholarships may be obtained from Dr. Burkette Raper, president of the Foundation For Christian Ministries, 619 West Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365 (e-mail <wraper@moc.edu>). For the fall semester 2008, the deadline for filling a completed application is June 30.

SILVERTHORNE FAMILY ENDOWMENT

Initiated in December 2006 by Mrs. Bertha Mae Silverthorne Nunnally, the Silverthorne Family Endowment is a living memorial to her father, William Washington Silverthorne (1896–1973) and her mother, Bertha Paul Silverthorne (1904–1997), and to other members of the Silverthorne family.

In establishing the Endowment, Mrs. Nunnally stated that her purpose was to honor her parents for the nurture they provided for their nine children and to help perpetuate their heritage of Christian faith and values to future generations. The Endowment provides for annual distributions to be made in equal amounts to four beneficiaries: Bethel Original Free Will Baptist Church at Whortonsville and Camp Vandemere, both in Pamlico County, NC; the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Middlesex; and the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection at Mount Olive College.

A native of Pamlico County, Mrs. Nunnally was the sixth of the nine children. Following her marriage to Waverly Earl Nunnally (1926–1986) of Richmond, VA in 1954, she spent the remainder of her life in Richmond, until her death in August 2007. She is survived by her children: Waverly E. Nunnally, Jr. of Springfield, MO; Paul J. Nunnally of Raleigh, NC; Anne S. Gossweiler of Richmond, VA; and "son of her heart," Randy Faircloth, Wilson, NC. She is also survived by a sister, Louise S. Tucker, Madison Heights, VA; and two brothers: Frank P. Silverthorne, Richmond; and C.B. Silverthorne, Caldwell, TX. She was predeceased by two sisters: Ada S. Parker and Evelyn S. Pittman; and three brothers: Jerry M. Silverthorne, Bobby Ray Silverthorne, and J.C. Silverthorne.

Gifts for the Silverthorne Endowment through December 31, 2007, including memorials to Mrs. Nunnally of more than $6,000 have totaled $39,441. The Endowment is with the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries, Dr. W. Burkette Raper, president, 619 West Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365.

Shown presenting a plaque for the Silverthorne Endowment to Bethel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Pamlico County, NC, is Dr. W. Burkette Raper (center), president, North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries; the Reverend Owen Peel (left), pastor of Bethel Church, and John Anderson, (right) deacon.

It was the request of Mrs. Mae Silverthorne Nunnally, who initiated the fund prior to her death, that the plaque be placed in Bethel Church where members of the Silverthorne family have held membership for more than a century.

SCHOLARSHIP GIFTS AND ENDOWMENTS

Scholarships provided by the Foundation are derived from two sources: gifts and endowments. Those who wish to share in this vital ministry may make their gifts payable to NC Foundation For Christian Ministries.

In addition to direct gifts, individuals, families, and churches may establish endowments for the permanent support of scholarships. Those interested in endowments are invited to contact Dr. Burkette Raper, president of the Foundation, regarding guidelines and policies.

The North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries is a tax-exempt charity qualified under the Internal Revenue Code to receive tax-deductible gifts and bequests.

POWHATAN NEWS

POWHATAN'S YOUTH GROUP RECEIVES COC AWARD

Powhatan OFWB in Clayton has entered applications for the Elizabeth Hansley Outstanding Youth Group Award (and received the honor) every year since the program began. One of the activities done this year was having a float to enter in the town's Christmas Parade on December 8. Joey and Janette Canady (parents of state youth vice-president Kim Canady) helped with the building of the float. John and Julie Cox used their truck to pull it, and the older youth worked many hours to get the float ready. Their purpose was to have an entry worthy to praise God during the Christmas season and to tell the community of the "Greatest Gift" ever. When judging was complete, they received the award from the Chamber of Commerce for the "Best Overall" float in the 2007 parade! Congratulations to the youth and leaders for all the hard work!

The group of young people that worked to finish the float on December 8.

In Memoriam:

Edward Johnson, a member at Powhatan since 1970, was called home on December 16, 2007. Remember his family during this time of loss.

Powhatan's oldest member, 95 year-old Joyce Blinson, passed away on December 21. She and her late husband J.C. were very active over their many years as members, and she will be missed greatly. Remember her family and the church family during this time of loss.

The "Tree of Hope" was a special event this year, with it being the 10th anniversary of the program that raises funds for the American Cancer Society. The Smith Family performed two songs as part of the service and the Powhatan Youth played the hand bells. A video from the last presentation made by member Vicky Bagley in 1999, the summer before she passed away from cancer, was shown giving a glimpse of the brave young woman who trusted God to take care of her and welcome her when her battle was over.

SMYRNA NEWS

Angels Colby Jackson (left) and Brooke Parker (right) prepare to perform during the December 16 Beginner Sunday School Class Christmas program entitled 'The First Christmas' at Smyrna Original Free Will Baptist Church in the Meadow community.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN 2008

by Donald Fader

Last month we talked about the need of discipline and goal setting to get our financial house in order. There are no shortcuts on the path of financial freedom. 90% of the financial problems (OK, I made up the 90% part but hear me out) most families face today is the result of too much spending. Let's face it, we have limited control over what we earn. Although most of us know a high school drop out who happens to be a multi-millionaire most of us fall within a range of earnings that match our education and experience. And besides that, even if we were somehow able to double or triple our income more money will not solve our problem. Why? Because without discipline and planning you will continue to spend more than you make creating debt that must be repaid. All too often this debt is funded in the easiest manner available, which means the plastic in your purse or wallet.

Financial Planning: A Biblical Persepective

That's not so bad is it? I mean everyone has debt, right? Most of us probably have some debt and contrary to what you may have heard borrowing is a Biblical principle. (More on this later.) The critical question you need to ask yourself is why are you borrowing? There are many legitimate reasons to borrow money but if you are living a $55,000 lifestyle on a $50,000 income you are borrowing for all the wrong reasons.

In the mid 80s, which was early in my ministry, the church I pastored sought to borrow money to build a fellowship hall. Plans were drawn up and the arrangements were made and the loan closing was just a few days away. Most of you are aware that the trustees of the church are required to sign the loan documents on behalf of the church. They are not obligated in any way for the repayment and so between Sunday School and church I went to the trustees individually to ask them if they could go by the lawyer's office and sign the documents and each one agreed until I came to the last trustee.

I suspect he was in his mid-seventies and when asked he responded that he wasn't going to sign for the church to borrow money. Now understand he was 100% in favor of the project and he was not being contrary or mean spirited; he was simply not going to sign. One of the deacons standing close by gave him some good natured ribbing by saying, "Aw, Mr. Owen doesn't know how to borrow money. Why, I suspect he's never borrowed any money in his life." With that said Mr. Owen turned to the deacon and without any animosity in his voice he said, "Yes I do. Why, I borrowed money back in nineteen and twenty-nine, and boys let me tell you something, that interest works on you even when you're asleep."

I can't tell you how many times I have thought about the valuable lesson I learned that day. You see, Mr. Owen figured that by working hard during the day he could keep up with the interest charges but you know a body has to sleep. And when he laid down at night I suspect the last thing he heard before he drifted off was the tick, tick, tick of the interest that continued on long after he fell fast asleep.

The same thing is happening to you. Let's just say that you have financed that $5000 difference in your lifestyle on a single credit card at 18% interest and you commit to making the minimum payment each month. At the end of 12.5 years you would have paid $2,915 in interest and you probably won't be able to remember what you were paying for. Clothes that you gave or threw away years ago, toys that have broken and other things that you thought were such good deals you and couldn't live without. Which is easier, learning to control your spending or making payments on things you no longer have? Listen to the tick, tick, tick of that interest clock. It's running even when you're asleep.

"The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender's slave" (Proverbs 22:7).

Every time you finance a purchase, you mortgage a part of your future, a future that now belongs to the lender. Is it worth it? You decide.

2008 CRAGMONT WOMAN'S CONFERENCES
REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete ONE form per person (make copies as needed)
& mail with $20 nonrefundable registration fee to:

Joan H. Little, 7063 Stantonsburg Road, Farmville, NC 27828
(Make all checks payable to Cragmont Woman's Conference.)

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____ Church_____

Emergency Contact_____ Phone_____

PLEASE MARK ALL ITEMS BELOW WHICH APPLY TO YOU.
ROOMS WILL BE ASSIGNED IN ORDER OF REGISTRATION RECEIVED.

____A downstairs room is NEEDED due to medical reasons. (Availability is limited.)

Roommates desired: _____ _____
_____ _____

Lodging request: ____Main Bldg. (2–4 per room) ___Upstairs ___Downstairs
____New Lodge (3–4 per room)
____Motel (2–4 per room) ___Hollifield House (6–8)
____Girls Dorm ___Boys Dorm ___Floyd House (8)

CHECK Conference for which you are registering. You may register for more than one.

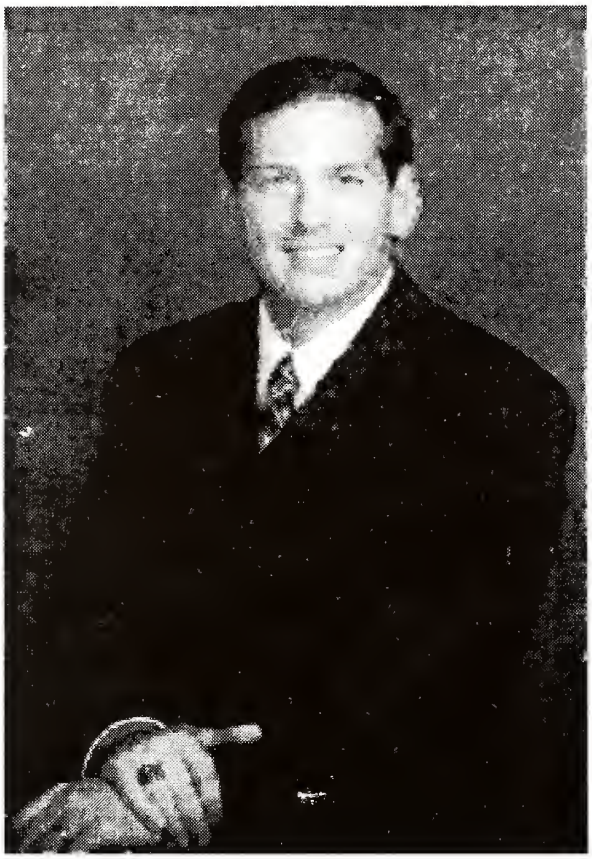
___ March 28–30 ~ Morning Star ~ Speaker: Vickie Wade
___ $20 registration fee enclosed. ($75 Balance Due upon arrival.)

___ June 4–7 ~ Day Spring ~ Speaker: Brenda Best
___ $20 registration fee enclosed. ($85 Balance Due upon arrival.)
Day Spring Conference also welcomes couples and families.

___ July 27 (Sunday)–August 1 (Friday) ~ Speaker: Donna Whitfield
___ $20 registration fee enclosed. ($120 Balance Due upon arrival.)
___ I plan to ride the bus. Travel Day will be on Sunday PM. Bus—$55.
___ I plan to go on side trip to The Billy Graham Library/Museum.
$30 nonrefundable deposit enclosed.
There will be 2 afternoon trips to Asheville. ($10 each) No deposit required.

___ September 19–21 ~ Speaker: Becky Jo Sumner
___ $20 registration fee enclosed. ($75 Balance Due upon arrival.)

All Conferences are open to all women regardless of membership or age.



The
First Free Will Baptist Church of Greenville
Invite all to attend a
Special Installation Worship Service
Sunday, February 10, 2008 at 11:00 A.M.
honoring their new pastor,
The Reverend Michael Bryan.
A covered dish lunch in church fellowship
will follow the service.

Pastor Bryan finished his duties as Senior Pastor
at the Rock of Zion OFWB Church
in Grantsboro on January 30, 2008.
Greenville First FWB Church will welcome
him and his family as he begins as
Senior Pastor at First Church.

FWB League Convention

Please join us for the League Convention
on
Saturday, March 15, 2008 at 10 A.M.
at the
First FWB Church of Goldsboro, NC
(604 East Ash Street)

We will be remembering and honoring the heritage of the FWB League. The program will include a variety of familiar faces from the past and present. We will continue the League tradition with a Sword Drill and Singspiration. The convention will conclude with lunch provided by the host church. If you share a history with the League that enriched your life, make plans to join us for this very special day.

For information, contact Becky Jo Sumner at (252) 332-6810.

OOPS!

Last month's issue (January 2008) included a feature article entitled, "Keeping the Sabbath." This article included the statement: "I personally believe that the Sabbath should be a boring time of no fun in life." That statement should have read: "I personally do not believe that the Sabbath should be a boring time of no fun in life." We apologize for this error.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who sent birthday and Christmas cards in 2006. Your thoughtfulness is a blessing to me. May God bless you during this new year!

Kay Jones
4116-B Lee St.
Ayden, NC 28513

Churches & Ministry Positions Available

STONEY CREEK CHURCH is seeking a full-time Youth Director. Primary duties will be to provide a comprehensive ministry to youth in grades 6–12. This is a great opportunity to work with a multi-staffed and growing Church. Stoney Creek Church has approximately 200 young people in this age group. Those who may be interested are invited to send a resumé to Gary M. Bailey, Senior Pastor, Stoney Creek Church, 752 Stoney Creek Church Road, Goldsboro, NC 27534 or e-mail to <gbailey@ncrrbiz.com>. For more information, you may call Gary Bailey or Joey Williams, Director of Children's' Ministry at (919) 735-3916.

LICENSED MINISTER JONATHAN BEST is available for the following services: fill-in, interim pastor (up to 90 days), youth pastor. He may be reached by phone at (252) 943-3462 or (252) 721-8261, or by mail at 23 S. Turner Circle, Apt. B, Coats, NC 27521.

THE REVEREND CHARLES PETIT is available for the following services: supply, revivals, interim pastor, or fill-in. He may be reached by phone at (919) 553-5741 or by mail at 2014 Penny Lane, Clayton, NC 27520.

Personal Information Changes

THE REVEREND RONEY BUNN, JR.
829 FOREST LAKE DR.
LAKELAND, FL 33809-3740

HOMOSEXUALITY
The Naked Truth

The media thrives upon it. Big corporations endorse it. Politicians try to legalize it and still, the church of the living God seems powerless to stop it. Finally a must read publication concerning this godless abomination. ($5.00)

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The Press to $125,000! Capital Campaign

Church Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Contact Name _____ Phone (include area code) _____

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- ❍ $100–249 ..... Publisher's Club
- ❍ $250–499 ..... Proofreader's Club
- ❍ $500–999 ..... Designer's Club
- ❍ $1,000–2,499 ..... Editor's League
- ❍ $2,500–4,999 ..... Writer's Guild
- ❍ $5,000+ ..... Foundation Builder

❍ Our Total Gift of $ _____ is enclosed.

❍ Our Total Gift of $ _____ will be made over a 2 year period.

Payments of $ _____ will be made: ❍ Monthly ❍ Quarterly ❍ Semiannually ❍ Annually

Please Note: Churches may give freely. However, for itemized tax deduction purposes, individuals should give through their church. In order to do this, a church must either set up a fund for the Free Will Baptist Press or already include us in their budget. Individuals who take the standard tax deduction, may give up to the amount designated by law.

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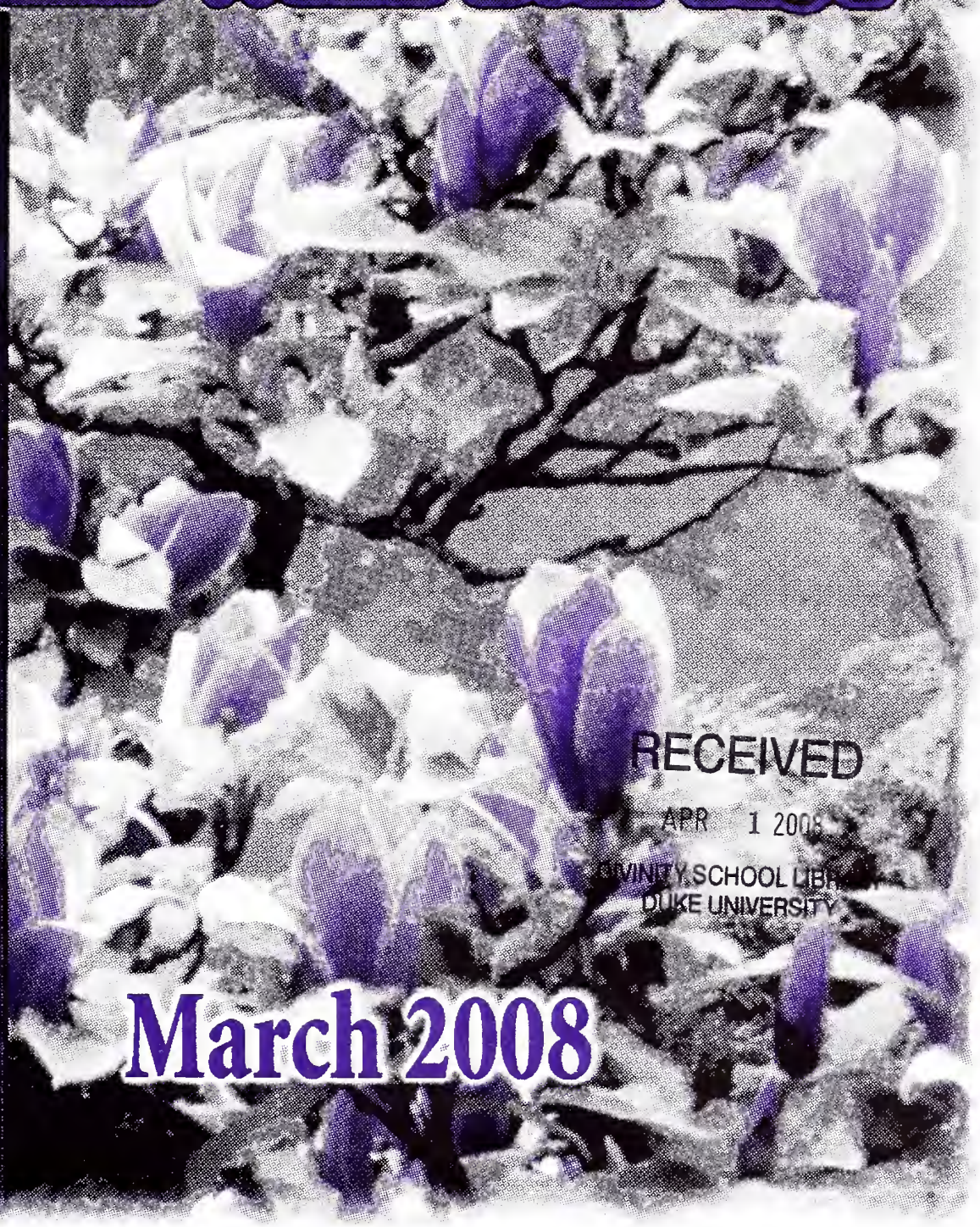
THE FREE WILL BAPTIST



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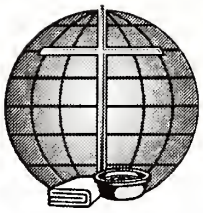

THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST

MONTHLY PLANNER

March 2008

FOREIGN MISSIONS MONTH

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Sunday School Institute @ MOC
2 4th Sunday in Lent	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 5th Sunday in Lent **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS**	10	11	12	13 Container Gardening 12 P.M. @ MOC	14	15 Molasses Creek Recital 7 P.M. @ MOC
16 Foreign Missions Telethon Sunday **PALM SUNDAY**	17 **ST. PATRICK'S DAY**	18	19	20 **MAUNDY THURSDAY** **SPRING BEGINS**	21 **GOOD FRIDAY**	22
23 **EASTER!**	24	25	26	27	28 Morning Star @ Cragmont (28–30)	29
30 2nd Sunday of Easter	31					

NOTE:

Color for Easter: White

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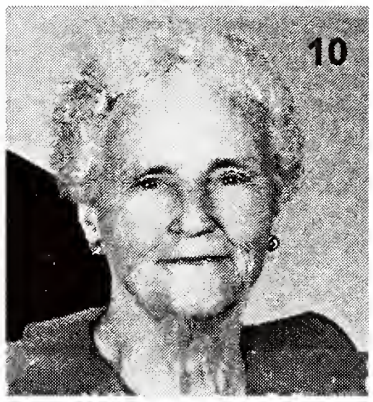

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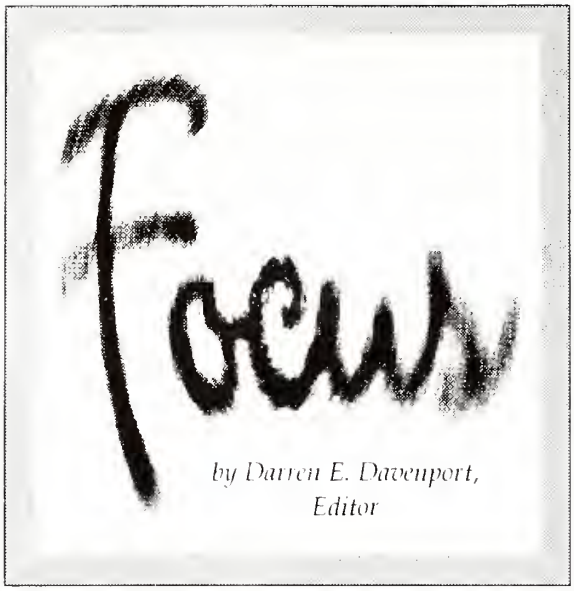
POWER VERSE

A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels (Proverbs 1:5).



A Good Time to Blossom!

I love the spring season. It is fascinating to see all the plants and trees come to life again with its beautiful new foliage and blossoms. Who, but God alone, could be the author of such an awe-inspiring novel! Spring fever will soon be spreading like a plague enveloping all of creation. The sun's rays will be tanning people on beaches and pools will be overflowing with kids (of all ages) everywhere. There will be so many things to do—and that you'll want to do—that it will be easier to forget the things we need to do. I'm referring, of course, to worship and fellowship with our church family and personal time with God. In the rush and adrenaline that is spring fever, it is so easy to skip or save for later this very important part of our Christian lives. (And, by the way, "later" usually gets completely forgotten.)

We should all strive—work hard—to keep this part of our lives intact no matter how much else there is to do. Oh, and if you aren't already placing God in this most important position in your lives, now is the perfect time to start.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord*; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away* (Psalm 1:2–4).

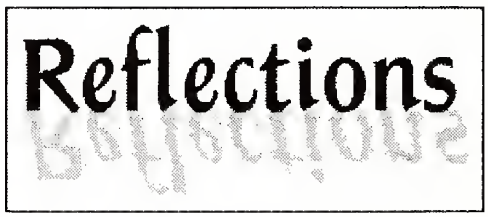
I welcome your comments, criticisms, and/or suggestions. You may e-mail me at <editor@fwbpress.com>.

"Awesome," A Word Too Often Used

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

It's somewhat amazing to note how some words come into play and then become overused. Awesome is a special word with special meaning and significance. *Webster's New Word Dictionary* defines the word *awe* as follows: "a mixed feeling of reverence, fear, and wonder, caused by something sublime etc." Thus, the proper use of *awesome* must incorporate the above definition.

Cruden's Complete Concordance cites three verses from the Psalms in which the word, *awe*, is found: Psalm 4:4: "Stand in awe and sin not..." This is a Psalm of David that expresses trust in God. Such a reverence for God is a reminder to sin not, especially in connection with calling upon Him as David expressed in verse 3: "...the Lord will hear when I call unto him."



Psalm 33:8: "Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him." This is a Psalm of joy and praise in recognition of God's righteouness, judgment, goodness, and creatorship.

Psalm 119:161: "Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word." Regardless of unjust treatment, the psalmist recognizes the impact of God's word upon his life, giving him a deep sense of reverence.

In the light of these verses and the actual meaning of the two words, many things and events that are referred to as awesome, are not really awesome. A winning grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning is great, but it is not awesome; it does not bring a mixed feeling of reverence. A winning three-point shot with 3 seconds left on the shot clock is amazing, but it does not result in a awesome fear. We admire the athlete's skill and ability, of course, but not sublimely. Thus, something that is quite normal—a song, a person, an event, or happening, can just as readily be described as great, excellent, grand, amazing, astonishing, etc.

In contrast, a sermon delivered under the leadership of God's Spirit becomes awesome to the receptive ear because it moves one in the direction of God. The same can be said of Christian music and in all things that glorify God.

As we behold the starry heavens, we stand in awe of God and His creative power. When a soul turns to Him and experiences His grace and mercy, something awesome has transpired—something that goes far beyond our human comprehension. Spectacular sights and sounds become awesome if they inspire and draw us to Him in reverence and wonder.

I prefer to keep the two words in proper perspective. I hope to experience many more wonderful things. Yet, I know the greatest is yet to come—when I behold Him in His majesty and glory. Now that will be awesome indeed!

THE CHURCH AS A COMMUNITY BOUND BY A COLLECTIVE MEMORY—A STORY AND SYMBOL FORMED PRAXIS

by K. David Hines, D. Min.

Introduction

What forms and informs a community? I contend that it is a commonly accepted narrative that defines what a community is and what is expected of those who unite with that community.

The Christian Church has a 2000-year history. While all those who claim to be Christian make some claim regarding the conviction that Jesus Christ is Lord, the way that story is told and the way that life is lived certainly varies. To be Christian is to seek to live out faithfully an understanding of the Christian Scriptures and tradition.

Unfortunately, few are familiar with the rich witness of Scripture or of the Christian tradition. Consequently, there seems to be little contemporary content to the phrase "I am a Christian." One may just as well say, "I am an American." In fact, I see much more influence of American values on the Church than the other way around. Therefore, the result of this article is not just a description of what the "Church is." I offer this as a call to renewal for the Church to become what we have been called to become. The Church should never be in a state of being; instead, we should be in a state of becoming.

A quick definition: When I use the word "Church" I intend the meaning suggested in the Apostles Creed—the holy catholic Church. I never use this word with a capital letter to refer to an individual congregation or denomination. This Church is the body of all who trust in Christ. The theological positions taken here are of one who happens to be an Original Free Will Baptist, but the "Church" is *much* larger than this small group.

A word about my method: I regard the story of Jesus not as a new book in the story of God seeking to redeem the human race. Instead, I regard this Story as a new chapter in the history of salvation. The roots of Christianity are found in the Hebrew people and their worldview. For this reason, I will start with first century Judaism. What were the story and symbols that defined the praxis (way of living) of these people? Then I will ask the same questions of the Christian community. What story and symbols should define Christian practice? I contend that the Christian community is formed by its commitment to a truthful narrative. We share a collective memory of what it means to be Christian which is re-presented via the sacraments.

I. Hebrew Roots:
Deuteronomy 6:20–25 and 26:1–11

The Hebrew people had (and still have) a unique way of confessing their faith. They tell their story. The Hebrews believed that God acts in history. In their case, God has acted specifically in the call of Abraham, the story of the patriarchs, the Exodus, the conquest of Canaan. First century Jews would not be likely to describe their religion as a belief system but as a way of life. All of life was to be understood as obedience to the sovereign Lord who had given them Torah (a word best translated "instruction" not just law).

Did you notice the unique wording of Deuteronomy 6? Here we find an extended commentary on the first commandment. The question is simple: "What does this mean?" It is the answer that surprises us: the answer is the retelling of the story of their deliverance—not the kind of answer we would tend to give (probably because we lack the imagination). The command for singular obedience to God makes sense only because God has in fact acted to redeem God's people. It is as if God says, "Since I have done all this for you, doesn't it make sense to do what I command? It's for your own good!"

Following an analysis given by N. T. Wright in chapter eight of *The New Testament and the People of God*, I will examine how the story of the Hebrews gave rise to unique symbols. Then this collective memory (my words) produced a unique praxis.

A. The Story

Wright observes "that stories are important as an index of the worldview of any culture. ...First-century Judaism is an excellent example of a culture which quite obviously thrived on stories" (215). In the Hebrew Bible, these stories began with a focus on creation and election. In Genesis 1–11, we have a powerful description of God creating with power and purpose. The world, everything in it, and all that surrounds it are made by God. There are no conflicting deities or random chance. Then God declares God's creation *good*. This then begs the question: if the world is good, then why is there so much evil? The simple, yet profound, answer of Genesis is that we humans messed it up. Genesis 1–11 spells out the problem, and then the rest of the scriptures unfold God's solution. God calls a man named Abram (later

Abraham) to be the father of a great nation. Wright notes that "Abraham was seen as the divine answer to the problem of Adam" (216). This is Israel's election to be the people of God.

The story continues in the Exodus. The people had become slaves to the Egyptians. They cry out to God for help. God responds by calling a man named Moses to confront the Egyptian Pharaoh and demand the release of God's people. After the story of God showing the Pharaoh who God is, the Pharaoh finally lets the people go. Suddenly, he changes his mind with the result that the Hebrews have a mad army behind them and a sea in front of them. God dries up the sea long enough for the Hebrews to cross. The Egyptians get stuck and then drown in the returning waters. This is the story of deliverance and salvation. It isn't long before God gives the Ten Words (what we call the Ten Commandments) through Moses and the people enter into their covenant with God.

This story continues through their wandering in the wilderness and eventual conquest of Canaan—the Promised Land. This nation reaches its peak under the reigns of David and Solomon. They now have a capital and a temple. Jerusalem is now the political and religious center of the nation. It just doesn't seem that this story can get any better. It doesn't. After the death of Solomon, the nation divides into two separate kingdoms beginning a downward spiral. The Northern Kingdom is destroyed by Assyria in 722 B.C. Due partly to the stability of the Davidic Dynasty, the Southern Kingdom (Judah) survives until 586 B.C. when it was destroyed by the Babylonians. They destroyed the Temple and took the leading citizens into the captivity known as the Babylonian Exile. Some forty years later, Cyrus of Persia allowed the Jews (this becomes the proper term during the exile) to return to their home. Their great anticipation was soon shaken by the reality of a ravaged land. Yes, they rebuilt the Temple and the city, but their efforts were but a shadow of the former glory. Plus, they were still subject to pagan (foreign) governments.

When we reach the first century A.D., Wright notes that the prevailing attitude of the people was that they were still in exile, so to speak (see Wright 220–224). They were under Roman rule. As such, this is a story that is still waiting for its last chapter to be written.

B. Symbols

Wright argues that while it is stories which articulate a worldview, it is "symbols which bring that worldview into visible and tangible reality" (224). Wright contends that the vital symbols for first century Jews were the Temple, the Land, and the Torah.

First among these symbols was the Temple. S. Safrai states: "In the eyes of the people it (the Temple) constituted primarily the divine dwelling-place of the God of Israel which set them apart from other nations" (Wright 224). Within the Temple one found the Holy of Holies where the Ark of the Covenant was housed. At the entrance of the Temple was the altar of sacrifice, the place of atonement. Even though the Ten Commandments forbid the erection of graven images to represent God, the Temple and its ritual became a symbolic representation.

The Land was symbolic in that it was regarded as God's Land, the Land of Promise. When God called Abram, that promise included both descendants and a land. In the thinking of Jews, the fact that in the first century their land was subject to the rule of pagans (Romans) constituted both a political and a theological problem. (Note: I doubt that Jews would have made this kind of distinction because they would not have made an arbitrary separation between politics and theology). As long as they were subject to the rule of pagans, they were not truly free and God was not truly king. As noted earlier, they were still living as if in exile.

Since the Temple as rebuilt by Herod was tainted because he was not regarded as a true Davidic king and since the Land was under foreign rule, the Torah came to be regarded as the most important Jewish symbol. Wright states: "The Torah was the covenant charter of Israel as the people of the covenant God" (227). A temple could be destroyed and a land could be conquered, but the Torah could still be studied and lived. Keeping Torah came to be the way for Jews to distinguish themselves from the nations.

C. Story and Symbol Produced a Praxis

Seeking to live out the meaning of their story and symbols produced a distinctively Jewish way of living. This way involved more than "keeping the commandments" because most cultures had some type of law code. The chief ways of putting Torah into practice included circumcision, keeping Sabbath, and the kosher laws. By circumcision, one was marked as a child of the covenant for life. If you think about it, this is probably the most intimate, personal marking possible. The setting of a unique day for worship and rest is a way of affirming that this is God's world. We don't have to invest our every waking moment to produce. God will care for God's people. While most of the kosher laws (idea of clean and unclean) probably had their origin in health issues, they came to represent a way of being distinct from the nations.

From the perspective of the twenty-first century,

our temptation is to ask "Why?" regarding these practices. One will be hard-pressed to find an answer from the first century. Remember the question from Deuteronomy 6 and 26? "What do these things mean?" The answer given is the story. My point: **first century Jewish reality was bound up in a collective memory preserved in story and symbol. Then the collective memory produced a distinctive way of living, a unique praxis.** Instead of dealing with "why," the story and symbol define "what" it means to be Jews.

II. Jesus and the Beginning of Christianity

Using the model suggested by Wright for the description of first century Judaism, I believe that one can see the same themes develop in the beginning of Christianity. Christians are a community formed by their commitment to truthful story (to paraphrase Stanley Hauerwas in *A Community of Character*). It is this story that calls this community to a distinctive way of living. I contend that this way of living, the unique Christian praxis, is best exemplified in the Church at worship and in the Christian sacraments.

A. Story

The Story of Jesus is not a new book but a new chapter in the story of God and redemption. The Gospel of Matthew makes this point boldly through the use of a genealogy traced back to Abraham and through the frequent use of the formula "that the scripture might be fulfilled." Matthew is surely seeking to demonstrate that the story of Jesus is built upon the story which began with the call of Abraham.

I feel that the Gospel of John makes the same point, but does so in more imaginative ways. John opens with a sophisticated prologue which in effect is a new Genesis. The world and everything in came to be through the Word (*logos*) of God. It is not much of a reach to hear the Creation story from Genesis 1 where God speaks the world into being. Then John reaches a great crescendo with 1:14: "The word came to be flesh and tabernacled among us" (my translation). The tabernacle was a desert dwelling place, a type of branch and leaf constructed tent. John uses the word *eskanosen* which is the aorist tense (past time, completed action) form of the verb *skanoo*. This is the verb form of the word for tabernacle (*skana*). The creative, eternal Word of God has now become a living, breathing human being. Now, this is the way to introduce a new story! Wright adds: "That which Judaism had thought to find in Torah is truly found in Jesus" (414).

With John 1:1–14 functioning very much like an overture for a theatrical performance, the story of Jesus is then presented as different acts within a drama. Most of these acts follow a similar pattern: encounter, dialogue, teaching. For example, consider Act III, the encounter between Jesus and Nicodemus. Imagine a quiet, solitary figure on the stage with dim lighting. Then under the cover of darkness Nicodemus slips in (the encounter). Nicodemus initiates the dialog: "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God" (John 3:2b, NRSV). Then Jesus, who is full of surprises in John, replies in a manner that completely confuses the learned Nicodemus: "Amen, amen, I am telling you: unless one is born *anothen*, one will not even be able to see the Kingdom of God" (John 3:3, my translation). Immediately Nicodemus is totally confused. The Greek word *anothen* has two distinct meanings. It may either mean "a second time" or "from above." Clearly Nicodemus only understood Jesus as saying he needed to be born a second time. By continuing to read the dialogue, one discovers that Jesus meant both ideas. Not only did one need a new birth to see the kingdom, one needed a different kind of birth. One must also be born "of the Spirit" or "from above." Then the dialogue moves to Jesus teaching about the meaning of everlasting life. This particular act reaches its climax with what is probably the most quoted verse in the New Testament: John 3:16.

To grasp the power of John's drama, one needs to examine two powerful metaphors: Jesus as the great I AM and the Lamb of God. Even with a quick reading of this Gospel, one cannot help but notice the powerful I AM sayings (Greek, *ego eime*). I AM the light of the world, the good shepherd, the resurrection and the life. These are strong allusions to the name of God given to the Hebrews: Yahweh. In the Exodus, God reveals Godself as "I AM WHO I AM" (Exodus 3:14). Now what had been symbolically represented through the Ark of the Covenant was now personally present in Jesus. Added to this is the presentation of Jesus as the Lamb of God. As John the Baptist begins his ministry of preparation he sees Jesus walk by and says, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" (John 1:36b NRSV). Then near the conclusion of this drama, John is very careful to note that Jesus is crucified "on the day of Preparation for the Passover" (19:14). Jesus is being crucified at the same time the Passover lambs are being slaughtered in the Temple. Consider the symbolic value of these metaphors. If Jesus is the great I AM and if he is the sacrificial Lamb, it is not a reach to suggest that Jesus transcends the Temple (the place of sacrifice and symbol of God's presence).

B. Symbols: The Cross and the Sacraments

Just as symbols made the story of salvation concrete for the Jews, this same thing is true for the Christians. Obviously, the chief and central symbol of Christianity was the cross. Unfortunately, 2,000 years of history has made it difficult for contemporary folks to understand the radical nature of this symbol. A cross was a most unlikely symbol. Wright reminds us "that crucifixion, though common in the Roman world, was so utterly horrible that it was not mentioned in polite society" (367). The cross was a symbol of Rome's political power and authority. If you were to enter the city of Rome in the first century, it would not be unusual to see rebels lined up on crosses. This was Rome's way of saying: "You mess with us, and this is what you can expect. We are in charge." Yet due to the passion of Christ, this symbol has been transformed. The second century apologist Justin Martyr affirms: "This (the cross) is the greatest symbol of His (Christ's) power and rule" (Wright 367). The transformation of the cross from a picture of despair to a symbol of God's victory over sin took place quickly. In Galatians 3:13–14 (from the 50s) Paul states:

> *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone that hangs on a tree"—in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith* (NRSV).

The cross stands until this day as the central symbol of Christianity. A picture of shame has been transformed into a symbol of love, forgiveness, and victory. Few have captured the significance of the cross for Christians more powerfully than did Isaac Watts in his hymn:

> *When I survey the wondrous Cross, On which the prince of glory died, My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.*
> *See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown.*

Along with the cross, the sacraments of the Church give symbolic re-presentation of the Christian story. Historically, the sacraments have been defined as "an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace." The sacraments proclaim the Christian message in a way that transcends words.

By speaking of the sacraments as symbol, I do not mean to devalue their meaning at all. In fact, I mean quite the opposite. One must use the language of poetry and symbol when the reality that one seeks to describe is greater than can be conveyed with literal language. In other words, nothing is "just" a symbol. To describe something as a symbol is to enrich its meaning. Therefore, when I refer to the sacraments as symbolic, I am stating that they describe a reality which is greater than can be literally described.

Within the larger Christian community there is much discussion (debate?) over the nature and the number of the sacraments. There is a side of me that wants to affirm what I once heard Elton Trueblood state in a 1978 visit to Mount Olive College: "I believe that there are seventy times seven sacraments." Through this language he was suggesting that God's grace may come to us in numberless ways. But at a deeper level, I feel that a sacrament refers to an act specifically commanded by Christ in which some action or object is vested with significant meaning. Original Free Will Baptists teach that there are three sacraments which meet these requirements: Baptism, Holy Communion, and the Washing of the Saints' Feet.

Through our baptism, we define who we are and mark our identification with the Christian community. In Matthew 28:19–20a the risen Christ issues the command: "Going therefore, make disciples of all nations through baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit and through teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you" (my translation). The beginning of one's Christian journey is marked by one's immersion into the Church both literally and figuratively! (For the record, the Greek word *baptizo* means "to dunk.")

Through Holy Communion or the Eucharist (from the Greek word meaning "thanksgiving"), we define how we came to be. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:23–26:

> *For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes"* (NRSV).

The Christian community exists because of specific events in history: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Each time we come to the Lord's Table we come in the presence of the risen Christ. We come in "remembrance." We come re-presenting events of

the past which are somehow strangely new and contemporary.

While most Christian groups do not practice the Washing of the Saints' Feet as a sacrament, the support for this rite in scripture is just as strong as it is for any of the other sacraments. In John 13, we read where Jesus girded himself with a towel and began to wash the feet of his disciples during the Last Supper. In that culture, if you wished to extend hospitality to your guests, upon their arrival you would provide water for washing their feet. If you had servants, they would extend this service to the guests. But in John 13, it is the host who is the servant. Peter initially refused. There is no way that he would have his Lord wash his feet. After some debate, Peter finally consents. John 13:12–17 states:

> *After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord –and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them"* (NRSV).

Through the Washing of the Saints' Feet, we define how we are called to live. Christians are called to be a servant people.

C. Praxis: To Re-Present the Story and Symbols

Just as story and symbol were called upon to produce a unique praxis for first century Jews, I contend that this is true for the Christian community. Christians are a community of the forgiven, of persons who have had their personal stories rewritten according to the story of Jesus. Christians make this story tangible through their symbols: the cross and the sacraments. This collective memory and re-presentation has the power to produce a distinctive way of living. In baptism we have a new start. In the Lord's Supper (Eucharist) we remember how we came to be. Then in the Washing of the Saints' Feet we learn how we are called to live.

It is my judgment that God in Christ is seeking to produce a people who resemble Jesus. Hauerwas states: "The only way we learn of Jesus is through his story as we find it in the Gospel and as we see it lived in the lives of others. ...(The Gospels) are proclamation; but the proclamation takes the form of a story of a man's life" (44).

Conclusion

We live in a culture that is radically and subversively anti-Christian. This past summer I saw a T-shirt with the quote, "I can only make one person happy, and I choose me." Here is the problem of our culture: we think that we exist only for ourselves. "As long I don't hurt somebody, what I do is my own cotton picking business." Hauerwas and Willimon state:

> *Our society becomes a vast supermarket of desire under the assumption that if we are free enough to assert and to choose whatever we want we can defer eternally the question of what needs are worth having and on what basis right choices are made. What we call "freedom" becomes the tyranny of our own desires* (32).

They continue:

> *Our society, in brief, is built on the presumption that the good society is that in which each person gets to be his or her own tyrant* (Bernard Shaw's definition of hell: Hell is where you must do what you want to do) (33).

Christians have a different story. We believe that joy is found in serving, blessing is found in giving, and that life is found in dying. Because our culture constantly screams its message of the all-important self, it is becoming harder to hear the Christian story. I do, however, remain an optimist. When we faithfully remember His story, when we live out the impact of our sacraments, lives will be changed. When our story and symbol form our praxis, we will truly be a community bound a common memory.

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A Shining Example for Us All:

A Tribute to Mrs. Hazel Casey

by Marci R. Rollins-Smart

I received the call last night that Mrs. Hazel Casey, my Sunday School teacher when I was in the Primary Class at First FWB Church of Goldsboro, has passed on to receive her reward in Heaven. Although she certainly will be missed, it was good news to hear because she had suffered for a long time and because I know without a doubt that she is with her Lord and Savior now.

From my earliest memories of Mrs. Casey, she always had white hair and was rather plump. I recall being in the Beginners Sunday School class and because our Educational Building at that time was an old house known as the Thompson Building, my class had to walk through Mrs. Casey's class in order to get to our own class. Everyone always was having such a good time in her class and there always was a large basket of candy in the center of the table. I hardly could wait until I was old enough to be in her class!

Once I was in her class, I found out you had to work in order to get that candy! At the end of each class session she would ask review questions and you had to answer them correctly in order to get a piece of candy. She did all kinds of things in order to teach us the Bible. One memorable thing is how she would have us act out the story after she had told it to us. I remember one Easter she brought in a crown of thorns and we each had to place it on our heads so we would have some idea of the pain Jesus went through for each of us. I'm sure she had a lot to do with leading me to know Christ as my own Lord and Savior, as I was baptized when I was a student in her class. Many of us were.

It was Mrs. Casey who also taught us the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments. She would close each class session with us gathering in a circle and holding hands and reciting the Lord's Prayer. We also had a contest to see who could learn the Ten Commandments first. One by one we would stand up in front of everyone during Sunday School Assembly and recite the Ten Commandments.

As I grew older I began to notice how much Mrs. Casey did for the Lord. She lived what she taught. If an award had been given for the person who brought the most visitors to church—it would have gone to Mrs. Casey. She would bring neighborhood children with her and entire families at times. Often, they were not the most desirable of people—but Mrs. Casey brought them anyway because she believed everyone

needed to come to know Jesus.

Mrs. Casey and her husband owned a mobile home park in a rather "bad" section of Goldsboro. They lived in that section of Goldsboro as well, and Mrs. Casey was not scared a bit. She believed that area of Goldsboro was her mission field. Almost every Sunday morning she would stand up during Sunday School Assembly and give a report on the work of Wayne County's United Church Ministries. She would tell of how many people they had helped to pay their bills, buy their medicines, or put food on their table. There was always a tub in the vestibule for church people to fill with food to be taken to United Church Ministries. She always encouraged us to bring non-perishable food and place it in that tub. She also would take collections of clothing and give them to United Church Ministries or to someone else she knew was in need. In the spring of every year, United Church Ministries would sponsor The Walk for the Hungry. That was the way she got the children and youth in the church involved. She would give each of us envelopes and encourage us to go out and get sponsors and then walk in The Walk for the Hungry. Our church always had the best rest stop in the Walk, too, because Mrs. Casey would make sure that people brought in all kinds of cookies and drinks for the Walkers. She always made sure to recognize us for the amount of money we raised.

Mrs. Casey also ministered to those in the Wayne County Jail. As I said, she wasn't afraid of anything! She would ask for magazines, books, and Bibles and then she would take them to the jail herself. I remember going Christmas Caroling at the jail—undoubtedly, that was done at her encouragement. If she had a motto verse in life, it was probably: "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me" (Matthew 25:34–36).

I left First FWB Church of Goldsboro in 2001 to take my first position as a Youth Minister. One of the last times I saw Mrs. Casey was at a Homecoming. I went up to tell her how much she had been an example to me of what it means to be a Christian and to minister to others. She in turn told me of how she had clipped every article that I had ever written for *The Free Will Baptist* or *The Goldsboro News-Argus* (as part of my journalism class when I was in high school) as well as those articles in which my name or picture had appeared while I was at Mount Olive College. She told me of how she had some of them in her Bible to remind her to pray for me each day. I knew they were not just words she was saying—she really did those things. I cannot describe how comforting it was to hear her tell me that she was praying for me.

I am sure that when Mrs. Casey passed away from this earth last night and entered into Heaven, she heard her Lord and Savior say, "Well done, thy good and faithful servant." Truly, she was the Mother Teresa of Goldsboro and a shining example for us all of what it means to be a Christian servant.

Hazel Marie Whitley Casey was born on March 9, 1924 in Wayne County. She began teaching Sunday School at First FWB Church of Goldsboro at the age of 17. The first class she taught was the Men's Bible Class. Later, she began teaching the Primary Class which she taught for most of her 50 years as a Sunday School teacher. After graduating from Goldsboro High School in 1941, she married Lonnie Casey on June 7, 1941. In the last seven years, she courageously battled many major medical issues. She died peacefully on January 17, 2008 while at Kitty Askins Hospital Center in Goldsboro.

REVIVE ME!

by Celia Hales

When I was quite a little girl, I attended a two-week long revival sponsored by all Original Free Will Baptist churches in and around Ayden, North Carolina. We gathered in the high school auditorium. The various pastors serving Original Free Will Baptist churches in the vicinity shared the role of speaker.

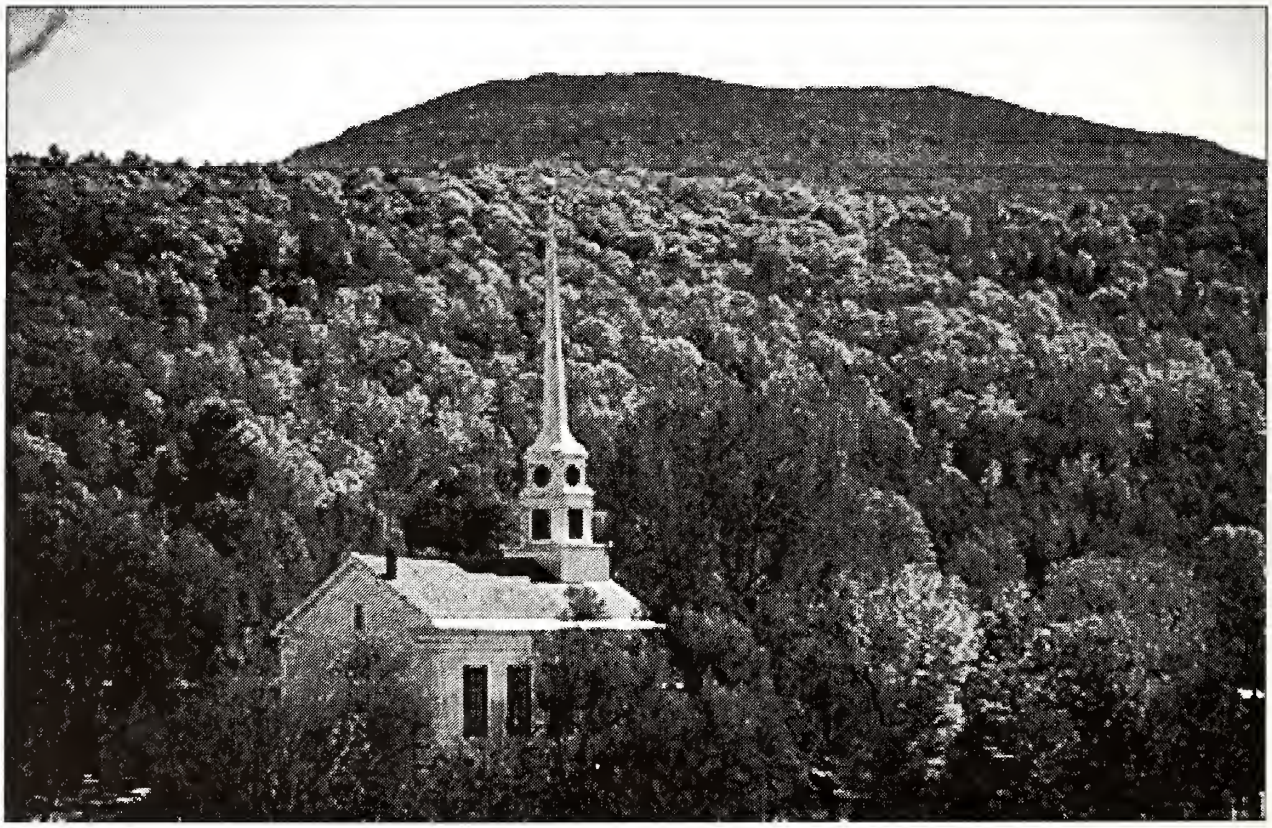
The pastor of the Ayden Free Will Baptist Church was slated to deliver two messages, back to back on adjoining evenings. He announced to the group gathered that his first sermon would be on "How to get to Heaven," and, the next evening, "How to get to Hell." I pondered this for a long while, and, when my family took me home with them, I announced with the certainty that only small children can muster, "I want to know how to get to Heaven, but everybody knows how to get to Hell—just don't do anything!"

My family, especially my great-grandmother, listened and chuckled. And the next time this pastor came calling, my great-grandmother told him what I had said. I think, in retrospect, that she thought I was on to something.

I've mentioned my great-grandmother, Celia Garris, several times in *The Free Will Baptist*. She was a saintly woman who believed in work as a way to honor God. Perhaps she had taken to heart, and given to me, an appreciation of St. Paul, who declared, "Faith without works is dead." Certainly, somewhere I had early on believed that I needed to work at gaining God's favor.

Do I still believe this? It is still part of my belief, but not the whole of it. Good works have their place, but none of us is so good as to buy thereby our way into Heaven. I now count among my favorite Bible verses: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

Certainly Mary and Martha of the New Testament chose differently. Martha toiled, and Mary listened to Jesus, and Jesus declared that Mary had chosen the better way. May we all listen to Jesus in the depths of our hearts, and know that Heaven awaits us whether or not we are always "doing" something. "Being" is sometimes the best way, when all is said and done.



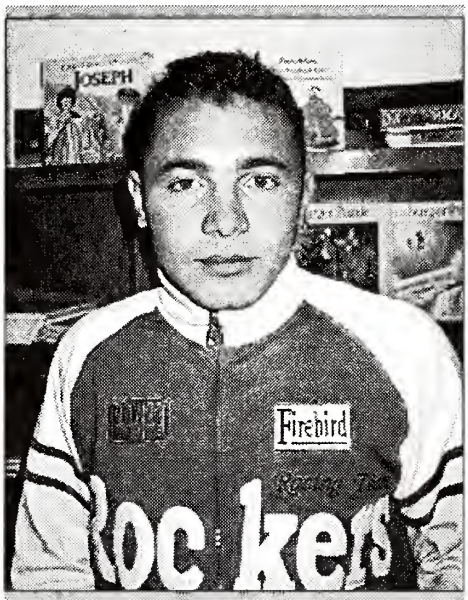
LIFE ON THE MIDDLE GROUND
(BALCHIK, BULGARIA)

by Tezdjan

How comfortable it is to choose for the middle ways. You embarrass nobody, hurt no one, and remain respectable to the society. The sad thing in churches today, including our young church in Bulgaria, is that many slip into the dip of being middle ground Christians. No wonder that many of "us" are stubborn, self-willed, and self-absorbed.

Yes, many of our youth, adult women, and men love Jesus; if you ask them: "Do you love Jesus Christ?," they will answer: "Yes." But the case is not if you love Jesus; the real matter is: "Do you love Jesus so much, that you lay down your life before Him, and are you willing to take all the consequences?" The Israelites followed often their own ways in worship and serving God. Ways which God often hurt, because of their actions, the consequences of them were devastating. How could this happen? Many of the children of Israel chose to give up living in the presence of God and chose for a mere confession of faith. Where are we standing? I am afraid we are not much better than the Israelites were.

As you know already, most of us have come to Christianity from the Muslim tradition. The love to God in Muslim tradition is practiced by just going to the temple, the Mosque. Every 'biram' (celebration feast usually after fasting) we face the same attitude of a certain group of our members. They go to the Mosque partaking in the celebration-prayer with other Muslims, participating in all the rituals, sharing the meal that is offered there, and the next day they come to the church.



Sali

Sali is one of them; he went to the temple celebration, participated in all the events that took place there and therefore he was suspended for some time out of Bible lessons and class activities. He was one of the 25 people, members of our church which went there. This was not the first time; in fact, it happened 4 or 5 years in a row. After some weeks Sali came, like the years before, asking if he was allowed to attend the church services again. He was very persistent and he looked really penitent and showing his sorrow that he was not able to pray with us anymore. Last Sunday he begged to be admitted again and when we asked him: "Why? You know that we have never forced you to become a member of our church." He said: "Please let me come back, because I have been dreaming that Jesus returned on the "Day of the Lord." He ignored me; He did not know me. I am afraid. I promise never to enter that Mosque anymore. I want to belong to Jesus." Medji and I decided to allow him to come inside. Sali gave a testimony and wants others to know that a Christian cannot walk various roads at once.

All these matters need prayer. Please pray with us that we may be good witnesses to these people; witnesses that serve God first and then man. We pray that all of us will be able to enter in the rest of God and belong to Him everlasting, because if you have everything in this life and you lack Jesus, you have nothing. When you have Jesus, you have it all in its fullness.

Foreign Missions Annual Telethon

TELETHON SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2008

THEME:

"THE VALUE OF ONE SOUL?"

THEME VERSE: MATTHEW 16:26

**"FOR WHAT IS A MAN PROFITED,
IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD,
AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL?
OR WHAT SHALL A
MAN GIVE IN EXCHANGE
FOR HIS SOUL?"**

WHICH IS MORE VALUABLE, THE WHOLE WORLD OR ONE SOUL?
If one soul is our answer, how should this be reflected in our giving to reach them with the Gospel of Jesus?

Goal 2008: A total of $225,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday.

This goal can easily be reached if we truly realize the value of one soul and give generously with that in mind.

PRAY DAILY FOR THIS GOAL
Call in your special offering between 1:30 and 5:00 P.M.
Dial (252) 746-4963. Your generous gift and call on Telethon Sunday will reach the priceless souls of many around the world.

ONE OF THE GREATEST JOYS OF LIFE IS TO GIVE UNSELFISHLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS MARCH 16, 2008.
True prayer longs for a deeper relationship with God and understands the value of one soul.

PRAYER GOAL MARCH 16, 2008:
All churches joining together in united prayer during the Morning Worship Hour in one accord for revival. LET US PRAY!

OFWB INTERNATIONAL
BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
(OFWB INTERNATIONAL)
POST OFFICE BOX 39
AYDEN, NORTH CAROLINA 28513 (252) 746-4963

Dear Friends,

The Annual Telethon for Foreign Missions is of vital importance to this ministry. Nearly one third of our annual budget is raised at this time. This makes it possible for us to meet the budget during the months when giving is below the monthly needs.

This past year we have seen our expenses rise on every field because of the weak US dollar. This makes it even more urgent that we meet and exceed the goal that has been set for this year. Please pray about what the Lord would have you give as an individual and church. Your gifts are greatly appreciated and will enable us to continue this outreach to the regions beyond.

God bless you many times over for your generous gifts on Telethon Sunday, March 16, and throughout the year.

With a thankful heart,

Harold Jones
Executive Director

MARCH IS FOREIGN MISSIONS MONTH

ANNUAL CONVENTION MISSION RALLY

Wednesday, May 21, 2008
7:30 P.M.
Kornegay Arena,
Mount Olive College

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSION IS IN CHARGE.

SPEAKER:
BISHOP LAVAUGHN HUGHES

Pastor Hughes was appointed pastor of the Tabernacle of Praise in Waldorf, Md., January 16, 2000. He holds several positions in the Middle Eastern District of Original Free Will Baptist Conference, which is comprised of more than forty churches. He is the President of the Northern District Union, which oversees seven churches located between New Jersey and Maryland. He also serves on the OFWB Ordination Council.

Pastor Hughes was consecrated to the office of Bishop in October 2006 by the Presiding Prelate of the Original Free Will Baptist Conference, Bishop L. N. Forbes and the staff of Bishops [Bishop A.C. Speakman, Bishop James Leftwidge, and Bishop J.N. Perry].

Pastor Hughes and Felecia were married on June 18, 1988 and they have 3 children, LaVaughn Jr., Alecia, and Crystal.

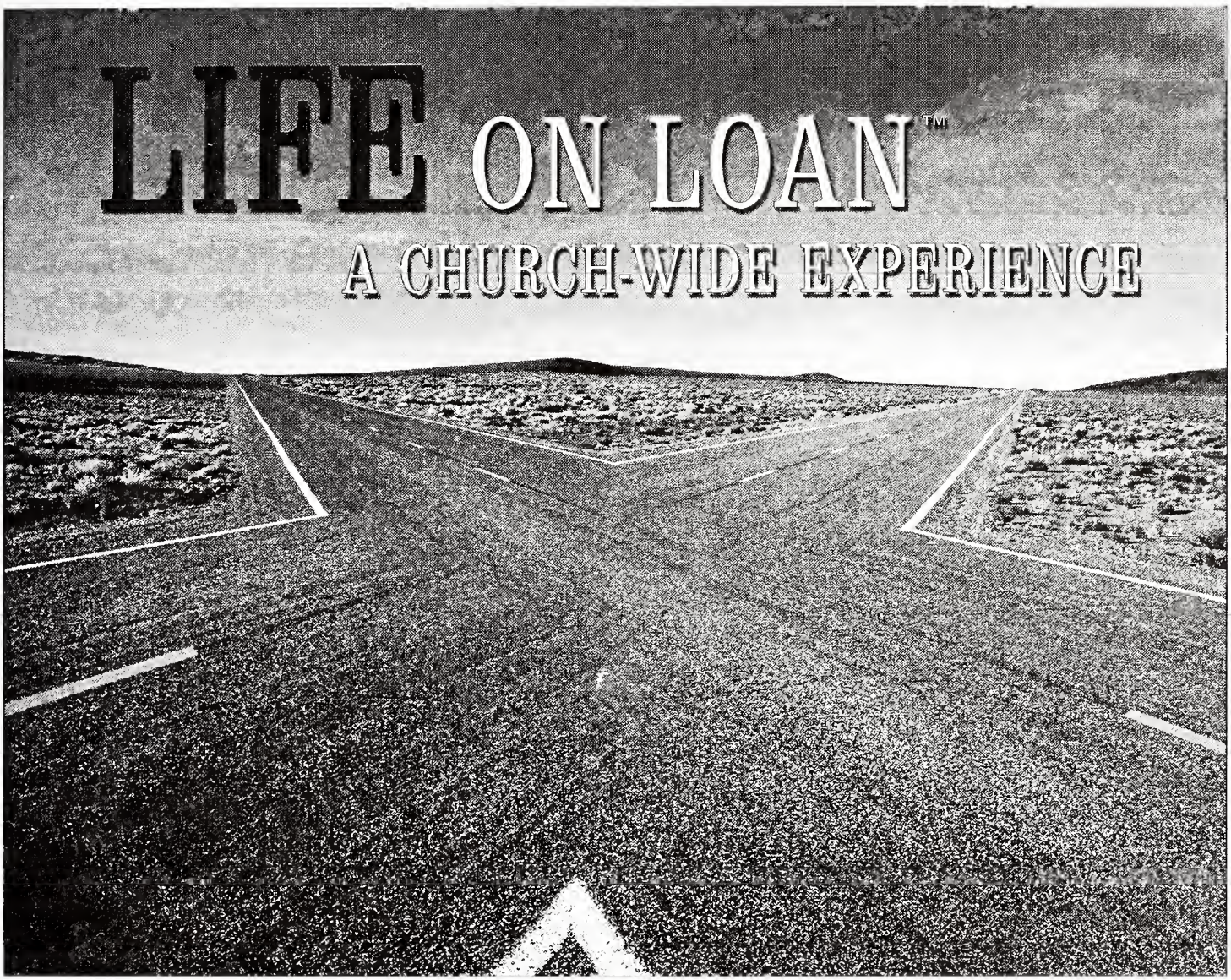
SPECIAL MUSIC: UNYIELDED GRACE

WINTERVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

A SPECIAL POWER POINT PRESENTATION WILL BE SHOWN ON THE SURVEY TRIP MADE BY HAROLD JONES, BISHOP HUGHES, AND DR. FRANKIE BAGGETT TO LIBERIA IN DECEMBER 2007.

SPECIAL OFFERING: Your special offering at this Mission Rally is vital for the continued growth of your missions program. Begin to pray NOW and ask God to reveal to you what your contribution should be this year. Thank you in advance for your generous response. I hope all of you can attend the Rally; but if you cannot, you can mail your special offering to: Board of Foreign Missions, P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. You will still receive credit for the Rally offering.

REMEMBER: You must earmark your check for Foreign Missions or place it in a special Foreign Missions envelope. These will be sent to every pastor and supplied at the Rally.



LIFE ON LOAN: A LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEY

by Buddy Sasser, Director of Convention Services

These are extraordinary days for Original Free Will Baptists. There is a contagious wave of excitement rippling through our denomination. It is very subtle, so subtle in fact that many have yet to see or feel its effect on the local church. But you will, and soon. And when you do, you will wonder, "Where has this been hiding? Why has it taken us so long to become a part of such a life-changing journey? When can I take my place on this growing wave of God as it endears itself to our people? What's it called?"

The **journey** is called "Life On Loan." It is designed to help us tell God's story through the people, events, and circumstances that intersect our lives, thereby creating our own story. The **wave** is called "externally focused," and is designed to help us see the needs of those outside of our meager existence. Let me explain first the wave, and then the journey.

Catch The Wave

The Original Free Will Baptist Denomination is the home of 254 churches, 11 Major Ministries, and 7 Ancillary Ministries. For the most part, the ministries are enjoying success at reaching out to people both inside and outside our

denominational ranks. For example, the Sunday School ministry and the FWB Press are now working cooperatively with Standard Publishing Company, Randall House Publishing, and others to produce a better quality product for use in our Sunday Schools. Foreign Missions, working with the OFWB of America (Bishop Forbes) has just opened the first Original Free Will Baptist Church in Liberia, Africa. Home Missions continues to provide ministry to the H'mong and Hispanic peoples. Cragmont, Mt. Olive College, the Children's Home, Retirement Homes, Carolina Bible Institute, Vandemere, the Layman's League, and others are stretching their open arms to people of all faiths and walks of life.

The leaders of these ministries understand that quality ministry must include **outreach**, taking the gospel beyond stated norms, if the Great Commission of Christ is going to be obeyed. Outreach means making their area of ministry available to people everywhere. To confine their work to just Original Free Will Baptists would be to act in total disobedience to the Word of God. In some cases, failure to reach beyond our own denomination would bring financial devastation. A number of our ministries have been riding the crest of the "externally focused" wave for quite some time. For example, the Children's Home has been reaching out to those in need since its inception. Had the decision been made to serve only OFWBs, their doors would have closed years ago. Mt. Olive College could not exist if the student body consisted of only young people from OFWB churches. The same holds true during the off-season at Cragmont and Vandemere. Our ministries have not only survived, but have also grown tremendously because of obedience to God's directives, wise planning, prudent financial decision-making, and the desire to reach out beyond the canvas on which they were created.

The local Original Free Will Baptist church now must find its place on this exciting wave. In discussions with various pastors and denominational leaders on the subject of church growth, we have discovered two hindering attitudes:

1. The pastor's desire to be in full control
2. Introverted lay people

The first of these attitudes can only be resolved by the pastor prayerfully realizing that he is called of God. One of the best descriptions of a good pastor is that he is a servant-leader, an equipper of others, rather than a commander-in-chief.

Secondly, the "externally focused" wave has as its goal a maturing of the introverted lay person. Ron Black, Executive Director of the General Baptist Association, says that the introverted lay person thinks the church is all about "them." "These churches concentrate on meeting the needs of the people **inside** their doors, rather than advancing the Kingdom by ministering to those **outside** their doors." (*The Messenger* February 2008). Those OFWB churches who choose to climb aboard this "externally focused" wave will soon find themselves enjoying a style of ministry designed to exemplify the gospel in the everyday lives of their people as they serve in their community.

Take The Journey

The journey taken by those riding the "externally focused" wave is called "Life On Loan." It is the story of your life, the people you meet, and the intersections that bring you together. It is a story that is written one page, or rather one daily episode at a time. It is designed to help us tell God's story through the people, events and circumstances that intersect our lives, thereby creating our own story. And while the story must be told by individuals, the journey can be taken by the entire church. This journey will equip the church to become more "externally focused" by intentionally serving the needs of organizations and individuals within its own community. One bold statement highlights the desired effects of this journey. "**If your church vanished tomorrow, would your community notice?**"

Life On Loan is designed to be a six-week journey that will help you connect with people and provide service to them. This is why God created you and it is what He has gifted you to do. Life On Loan is an amazing journey that involves children, youth, teenagers, and adults in ministry throughout their community. **It does not require you to create new programs, but rather invites you to become a part of those that already exist**. As your church becomes involved in this life-changing journey, you will find yourself approaching life's daily intersections with a new desire to serve people and your community.

To learn more about this exciting, life-changing journey, call the OFWB Headquarters Office at (252) 746-4963. Better still, make your plans to attend the Annual Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, May 20–22, 2008, held on the campus of Mt. Olive College. The co-author of the Life On Loan Series, Reverend Rick Rusaw, senior minister at the LifeBridge Christian Church in Longmont, Colorado, will be our special guest. He will be conducting an all-inclusive workshop on Wednesday morning. All OFWB pastors attending the annual I.M.P.A.C.T. Banquet on Tuesday evening will receive a copy of Rev. Rusaw's book, "The Externally Focused Church." We look forward to riding the "externally focused" wave together as we journey through our Life On Loan from God and make a difference in the lives of others.

This journey is made possible through the cooperative efforts of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, Home Missions and Evangelism, Sunday School Ministry, and Free Will Baptist Press.

2 Day Tractor/Truck Pull

Pulling for the Kids

Friday, April 4 and Saturday, April 5, 2008
Four Oaks Pulling Track
659 Tettersville Road, Four Oaks, NC

Sponsorship Ad Application Form

The Bethel OFWB Men's Fellowship has again joined with Cragmont to sponsor our Fourth Annual Tractor/Truck Pull to raise funds for Cragmont's New Lodge facility.

Your church, auxiliary group, organization or individuals are invited and encouraged to support this event with your attendance and by purchasing a sponsorship add.

Ad prices are as follows: Business Card size: $25, Half Page: $50, Full Page: $100

Please make as many copies of this form as you need and distribute within your church—especially to your business people.

You may submit your business card, add copy for scanning or we will design your add. **Please make checks payable to Cragmont**. Mail payment, business card and/or add copy to: Bryant Hines, 2030 Bear Grass Road, Robersonville, NC 27871. **Deadline for ads is March 20**.

If you have questions or need further information please contact Bryant Hines at (252) 792-4276 (home) or (252) 670-8424 (cell). Thank you for your support!

P.S. Concessions donations are encouraged!! Manpower always needed!! Contact Bryant for further information!

Sponsorship Information

Name of Business or Individual _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Size Ad (Circle One) Business Card: $25 Half Page: $50 Full Page: $100

(Please attach business card or information as you wish it to be printed along with your check payable to Cragmont).

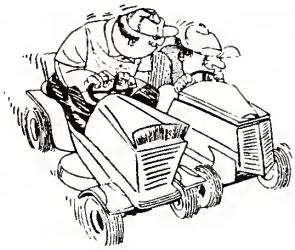
2 Day Tractor/Truck Pull

Pulling for the Kids

This 2-day event is sponsored by Cragmont Assembly, Inc. and Bethel OFWB Men's Fellowship

"Christian Camping in the Blue Ridge Mountains"

Friday, April 4th
7:00 P.M.



Hot Rod and Stock Lawn Mowers

Pulled By:
Neuse Mini Tractor Pulling Assoc.

Saturday, April 5th
12:00 P.M.

Antique Farm (Smokers) Super, Turbo, V-8 Modified

Pulled By:
Carolina Antique Tractor Pulling

KIDDIE PULL ON BOTH DAYS
(Ages 4–8)

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARD A NEW CAMPER'S LODGE

Four Oaks Pulling Track

659 Tettersville Road, Four Oaks, NC

Take I-95 to Exit 87 Four Oaks to Hockaday Rd., 2 miles to Tettersville Rd. Turn right 1 mile; track on the left. Shade trees for everyone at the track.

Admission: $7 – Regular $4 – Children (4–12)

No alcohol, drugs, or profanity allowed

For info, call: Jim Best at (919) 796-2775 or Bryant Hines at (252) 670-8424

Mid-Atlantic Christian Education Association

March 28–29, 2008

Providence Place Convention Center
High Point, NC

Theme: *Reaching Teaching 24/7 (2 Timothy 4:2)*

MACEA will hold a two day conference with over 100 workshops for teachers, children's leaders, pastors, youth workers, and women's leaders. Special speakers include:

- Larry Fowler from AWANA
- Marlene LeFever from David C. Cook
- Darrell Fraley from Boca

Register today at <www.macea.org>.

For further information, contact Mrs. Mary Dudley, Director of OFWB Sunday School Ministry at (252) 746-4963 or (252) 559-3327 or <director@ofwbsundayschool.org>.

THE BARROW FAMILY ENDOWED FUND FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES,

IN SERVICE TO GOD AND CHURCH, IS PLEASED TO PRESENT A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY FOR LAYPERSONS AND PASTORS.

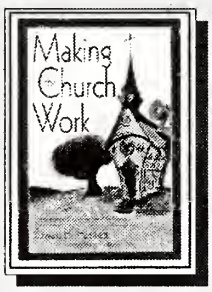
Making the Church Work in the 21st Century

Place: **First Original Free Will Baptist Church, Goldsboro, NC**

Date: **Saturday, April 26, 2008**

Time: **9:00 A.M.–2:30 P.M.**

The resource person, The Reverend Eddie Hammett, is a well known church consultant and is widely respected among OFWB. He is the author of many books on church growth and spirituality, including **Making the Church Work**. *The registration fee for the event is $10 and each person doing so will be given a copy of this book. Checks (covering both registration and book) should be made to: "Barrow Fund."*



Benefits of participating in this seminar: Discover...

- the impact of the rapidly changing culture on the church;
- practical ways of reaching people under 40 while keeping people over 60;
- how to outgrow an ingrown church;
- how to introduce and navigate the waters of change and transition in the church;
- tips on reaching unchurched persons in a 21st century world.

Seminar Topics:

Session 1: How the Culture Is Impacting the Ministry of the Church

Session 2: Introducing and Managing Change–Outgrowing an Ingrown Church

Session 3: Reaching People Under 40 While Keping People Over 60

This program is endorsed by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, OFWB Sunday School Ministry, and the OFWB Ministerial Association.

Detach and mail the following form and registration fee to:

The Barrow Family Endowed Fund
Henderson Building, Mount Olive College
634 Henderson Street,
Mount Olive, NC 28365

Lunch, not covered in the registration fee, will be provided on site by Wilbur's Barbecue, or one may choose food nearby.

REGISTRATION FOR *"MAKING THE CHURCH WORK IN THE 21ST CENTURY"*

Name: _____

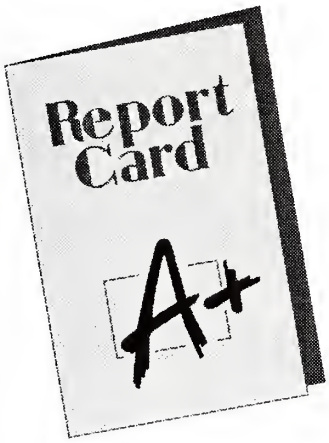
Address: _____

_____ Phone: _____

Church to which I belong: _____

$10 Fee Included: _____ (Place check-mark here)

REPORT CARDS SHOW POSITIVE RESULTS



We are pleased to announce that we had six students who have maintained the A/B honor roll for the entire first semester. Also during the first semester one male resident and one female resident—Kanvas T. and W.C.M. were chosen "Students of The Month." The nominations were made by faculty and staff based on the idea of what it means to be respectful. Faculty members use the Positive Behavior Support Matrix to identify what characteristics exemplify being respectful.

The children who live at the Children's Home come from a variety of economic and ethnic backgrounds. They have experienced crisis situations and are from diverse families.

We are proud of the children here, as they take steps to rebuild their lives and achieve positive goals that will enhance their futures. Please continue to pray for the Free Will Baptist Children's Home and the children here as we work together to make a difference.

CHANGE FOR THE CHILDREN

Our Change For Children Campaign 2008 is just around the corner. Letters will be mailed to the churches later this month. Please start praying now that this will be a successful campaign.

CAMPUS VISITS

On Janaury 29, members of the Woman's Auxiliary from Wintergreen Free Will Baptist Church, Cove City came by to drop off supplies and take a short tour. We always look forward to happy, smiling faces visiting our campus.

Pictured from left to right are: Cherial Wiggs, Frances Wetherington, Hannah Cox, Reba Adams, Frances Bryson, Stumpie Quinn, Patsy York, Pearl Ange, Betty Wood, and Martha Cox.

Needs List

Personal Care Items (Soap, lotions, antiperspirant-non-aerosol, shampoo/conditioner)

Recreation Items: Volley Balls, Tennis Rackets

Artificial Green Plants for Memorial Chapel

Twin Size Sheets & Comforters

Kitchen Towels and Dish Cloths

Storage Bowls

Trash Bags & Trash Receptacles (34 gal)

Heavy Duty cookware sets

Replacement Air-conditioning for Recreation center ($3500)

52" RCA Wide Screen Projection HDTV w/digital tuner (call for details)

Heritage Hall renovations (heat/air conditioning/carpet/kitchen repairs) $50,000

Kitchen Utensils (long handled forks, spoons)

Stainless Flatware—64 place settings

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE APPOINTS PROVOST

Dr. T. J. Arant

Mount Olive College announces the appointment of Dr. T. J. Arant as provost, a new position at the College.

In February of 2007 the MOC Board of Trustees and Dr. J. William Byrd, president of the institution, laid out a development plan of leadership for the College. The plan included adding a provost who would be responsible for the internal operations of the College. Dr. Arant has been selected to fill the position. He began this post January 22.

Arant has over 30 years of experience in higher education. He has held a variety of positions including chief academic officer, chief student affairs officer, development director (fund raiser), and an executive in charge of a consortium of nine liberal arts colleges located in West Virginia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Arant earned his B.A. from Vanderbilt University, his M.A. from UNC-Chapel Hill, and his Ph.D. from Duke University. He has worked and taught at Notre Dame College, Appalachian State University, Duke University, UNC-Chapel Hill, and Vanderbilt University

Throughout his career, Arant has received many awards and accolades including the 1996 Strickland Medal for Outstanding Faculty at ASU and the Pan-Hellenic Teaching Award at ASU. He was nominated three times to the ASU Academy of Outstanding Teachers.

"I got into higher education as a career because I love learning, but I have stayed in it," Arant said, "because I love students. Everything we do, we do because we want them to become all that they can be." On joining Mount Olive College, Arant said, "This is a special place, and it has been a leader in reimagining the ways in which people can access a college education. I'm excited to be here."

According to Dr. Byrd, this added leadership position comes at a pivotal time in the life of the institution.

"The growth of the College in every regard has been phenomenal and has therefore placed increasing demands on the institution with regards to leadership and management," Dr. Byrd stated. "Dr. Arant brings a wealth of experiences which will complement the array of talent already present within the MOC faculty and staff."

In addition to Arant coming on board in January, the College will soon begin its search for a new president. When the new president is in place, Dr. Byrd will be appointed Chancellor of the College.

"The Board of Trustees is implementing a carefully designed plan to guide the College through this period of transition. The goal is to maintain the climate of progress that has characterized the history of the institution with no loss of momentum," said Dr. Byrd. "Mount Olive College has provided great opportunity for growth and development of learners seeking an environment for study in which faith and values are celebrated."

Dr. Arant is a native of Kentucky. He and his wife Susan are living in Mount Olive and have joined the First United Methodist Church.

VIVIAN B. HARRISON MEMORIAL LECTURE

Join us for the 18th Annual Vivian B. Harrison Memorial Lecture with guest speaker Dr. Glenn Stassen from Fuller Theological Seminary speaking on "Transforming Initiatives in the Sermon on the Mount." The lecture is free and the public is invited to attend. For more information, contact Dr. David Hines at (919) 658-2502 or <dhines@moc.edu>. Funding for this event is provided by the Vivian Harrison Endowed Fund.

SULLIVAN TO SPEAK AT MOC BRASWELL LECTURE

Kathy Sullivan will be the guest speaker at the 10th Annual Braswell Lecture at Mount Olive College. The event will be held on Thursday, March 13 at 7 P.M. in Southern Bank Auditorium located in W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper Hall. The title of Dr. Sullivan's presentation will be "Transforming the Profession: Teaching in the 21st Century." The event is free and open to the public.

Dr. Kathy Sullivan is senior policy advisor for 21st Century Professionals, reporting to the deputy superintendent of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and working with the State Board of Education. Prior to this new position, Sullivan was director of Human Resource Management for NCDPI. As such, she was responsible for overseeing the programs and services related to the recruitment, preparation, licensure, retention, and evaluation of quality professionals for the public schools of North Carolina. Dr. Sullivan has also been a full-time professor at the University of North Carolina-Pembroke where she served as dean of Graduate Studies and director of Teacher Education.

Sullivan holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and a doctorate from the University of Georgia.

Sponsored by the Teacher Education Committee and the Prospective Teacher's Association at MOC, the Braswell Lecture has been held annually at Mount Olive College since 1997–98 in memory of Jessie Dail Braswell. Braswell taught in Princeton public schools for 34 years and demonstrated a life-long commitment to education. The Jessie Dail and Walter Vernon Braswell Endowment funds the Braswell Scholarship program, which has the potential of providing 11 annual scholarships valued at $6,500 each. Since 1998 the Braswell Lecture has featured North Carolina leaders in education and presented addresses on significant issues.

MOC ALUMNI BLOG

A special announcement for all Mount Olive College Alumni–Would you like to keep in touch with former classmates and friends? Have you ever wished you could share MOC photos online? Would it be more convenient to find out about upcoming campus events via the internet?

Well check out the beginnings of a brand new Alumni Blog found at <www.mocalumni.org/home>. Viewers can read and write comments to postings, as well as view pictures in the photo gallery.

"I hope our alumni enjoy this new communication tool," stated Dianne Riley, director of Alumni Relations at MOC.

Griff Griffin, from the class of 2004 and a member of the Alumni Board, is the monitor for the blog.

"Hopefully, this will serve as a great new communications format for all MOC alums," says Griffin, "I look forward to seeing more posts!"

Many other comments left on the site also represent the excited feelings of MOC alumni.

"I enjoyed visiting with some of my fellow classmates at Alumni Weekend 2007! I would love to hear from some of my other classmates," stated Joy Tolson Caroon, '81. "This forum was created to help us keep in touch. Let's take advantage of it and open up the lines of communication again."

Membership in the Mount Olive College Alumni Association is open to all former students who were ever enrolled at the College and departed under honorable circumstances. Degree completion is not a requirement for membership. Membership is also extended to former students of forerunner institutions that evolved into the present institution known today as Mount Olive College. This includes former students of Ayden Seminary, Eureka College, Mount Allen Junior College, and Mount Olive Junior College.

For more information about the alumni blog, contact Dianne Riley at (919) 658-7761 or email <driley@moc.edu>.

FWB STUDENTS

Mount Olive College had a few Free Will Baptist students who attended Visitation Day in January. Pictured are three students and their parents.

From left to right: are: Dean Williams, Eric Williams (student), Mary Beth Williams from Stoney Creek Church, Wayne County; Alan Joyner, Rebecca Joyner (student), Janet Joyner, Free Union Church, Greene County; Seth Hines (Student), Bryant Hines, Rose of Sharon Church, Martin County.

MOC STUDENTS ATTEND NORTH CAROLINA FARM BUREAU'S YOUNG FARMER AND RANCHER CONFERENCE

Three Mount Olive College students, Roshelle Branch, Eric Godwin, and D.J. Whitfield, were invited to attend the North Carolina Farm Bureau's Young Farmer and Rancher Conference held at the Marriott Crabtree in Raleigh on Saturday January 26. The three agribusiness/agriscience education students were among the over 300 young farmers, agribusiness owners, and agriculture students in attendance from across the state. Farm Bureau President Larry Wooten recognized the MOC students and personally welcomed them to the conference.

The conference focused on strategies for developing leaders in agriculture and covered a number of subjects of pertinence to agriculture and the future of the industry.

When asked what he would take away from the conference, MOC freshman Eric Godwin stated, "There was an excellent presentation on farm safety, but I realized most importantly the need for young people to become ambassadors for agriculture."

Dr. Sandy Maddox, associate director of the Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center at Mount Olive College, accompanied the trio to the conference and noted, "Farm Bureau has been a great supporter of our students and instrumental in their development as leaders. We are extremely fortunate to be working with Audrey Brown, an MOC graduate, as our District 3 representative for Farm Bureau. She has provided opportunities for our students to excel and challenges them to become leaders in agriculture."

Pictured are left to right: D.J. Whitfield, Audrey Brown, Roshelle Branch, and Eric Godwin. D. J. Whitfield is a member of Walnut Creek Church in Wayne County.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE—COMING EVENTS

CONTAINER GARDENING • MARCH 13 • HENNESSEE ROOM

Container Gardening is the topic of the March 13 meeting of the lunch-and-learn series entitled "Growing to Serve You." It is a 45-minute presentation that will take place in the Hennessee Room of the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center from NOON to 12:45 P.M. and will be led by Jessica Hyatt, horticulture extension agent with the Wayne County Cooperative Extension Center. Open to all students, faculty, staff, and the public, there is no cost for the series; attendees are encouraged to bring a bag lunch or to go through the College's cafeteria line (Cost $5 for general public). For more information, please call the Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center at (919) 658-7510.

MOLASSES CREEK RECITAL • MARCH 15 • SOUTHERN BANK AUDITORIUM

The Mount Olive College Recital Series presents Molasses Creek, on Saturday, March 15 at 7 P.M. in the Southern Bank Auditorium. Molasses Creek is a folk-fusion group based on Ocracoke Island. They delight their audiences with foot-stomping bluegrass, ballads, and a bit of wacky humor. The event is $5 and the public is invited to attend. For more information about the Recital Series at Mount Olive, College contact Brian Watson at (919) 658-2502.

Retirement Homes Ministry

People Helping People In Jesus' Name

Greetings from your Retirement Homes Ministry. The Board of Directors and staff of your Retirement Homes Ministry would like to take this opportunity to thank all our churches and individuals for their generous donations during 2007. You came through again this year and we again have made our budget.

In the January issue of *The Free Will Baptist*, I issued a challenge to all our churches to take a special offering for Retirement Homes to help us do some repair work on our storage facility in Ayden. This building is used by us to storage our disability equipment and also to storage items for the Convention and for the Sunday School Ministry.

The challenge has been met by several of our churches and we certainly thank God for these blessings.

The Disability Equipment Availability Program is in high gear. As our people have begun to learn of this program, the request for equipment has increased. If you know of someone who has equipment around their homes they do not need and would like to donate them, please let me know so I can make contact. We can always use wheelchairs, hospital beds, and lift chairs. It breaks my heart when I have to tell our people that I cannot help them because all of our equipment is already out. Help if you can.

I would also like to thank the pastors for inviting me to come and speak about the Retirement Homes Ministry in their churches. It is great to get to meet brothers and sisters in Christ from so many of our churches. It continues to bless my heart when I see our people doing exactly what our motto says, "People Helping People in Jesus' Name."

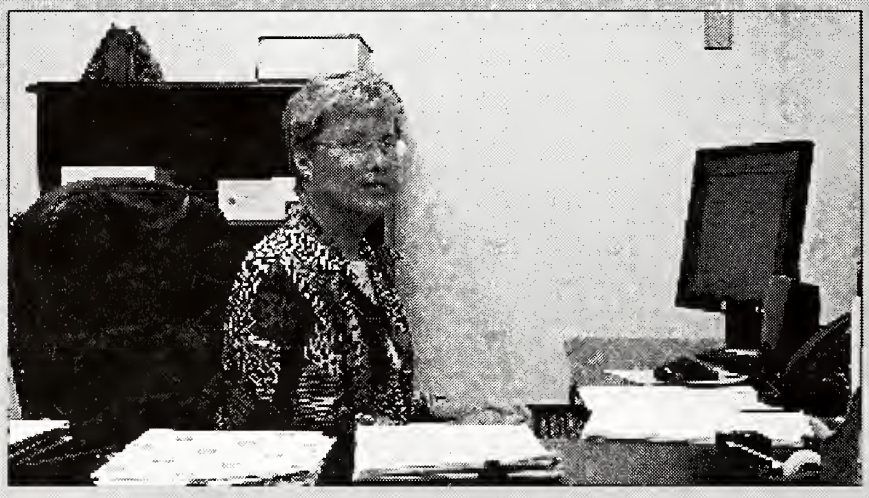
Ronnie Taylor
Executive Director

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me

(Matthew 25:40).

North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries

"For even hereunto were ye called: Because Christ also suffered for us, Leaving us an example, That we should follow his steps (1 Peter 2:21).



FOUNDATION APPOINTS ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Mrs. Bertie Hill Sanders, a native of Greene County and now resident of Kinston, has been appointed administrative assistant at the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries.

"Since being chartered in 2005, the work of the foundation has been by volunteers, but with growth in endowments and services to beneficiaries, its work has exceeded what can be done on a voluntary basis," declared W. Burkette Raper, president of the foundation." The duties of Mrs. Sanders will include coordinating financial records, acknowledging gifts, processing applications for scholarships, and providing information for endowment donors.

The officers of the foundation will continue their services on a voluntary basis: including Dr. Raper of Mount Olive, president; Don Ribeiro, M.D., of Maury, secretary-treasurer; and attorney Charles L. McLawhorn, Jr., of Greenville, vice-president and chair of the investment committee.

The mission of the foundation is the management and investment of endowments for qualified church-related, humanitarian, and educational purposes and providing scholarships for persons preparing for careers in Christian ministry.

Mrs. Sanders holds an Associate in Arts degree from Mount Olive College, a Bachelor of Science degree in business education from East Carolina University, and additional studies at UNC-Chapel Hill. Her previous work experience includes secretary to the president of Mount Olive College, business instructor at Wilson Technical College, and twenty-five years as director of Human Resources at Lenoir Community College, Kinston. She holds membership in Hull Road Original Free Will Baptist Church, Snow Hill and is also a member of the Lenoir County Historical Association.

The foundation, with home office in Mount Olive, is approved by the U.S. Treasury as a public charity under IRS Code 501 (c) (3).

Additional information on the foundation is available through the office of the President, 619 West Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. Email <wraper@moc.edu>.

Mark Your Calendar

Third Annual Session

NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008
6:45 P.M.—Dinner
7:30–8:30 Program and Foundation Report

Little Rock Original Free Will Baptist Church
Lucama, North Carolina

This event is open to the public and all who attend will be guests of the Foundation. Come and learn how Original Free Will Baptists can have a greater future and more faithfully fulfill God's purpose for our Church.

Reservations Required

Complete and mail the from below by April 14.

_____ Yes, I (we) plan to attend the Foundation dinner and program on April 22:

Name(s) _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cellular Phone _____

Please list the names of others who will be in your party: _____

_____

Mail to: **N.C. Foundation For Christian Ministries**
619 West Main Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365

Phone (919) 658-3855 or (919) 658-5250

Email: wraper@moc.edu

RECESSION COMING? WHAT CAN YOU DO?

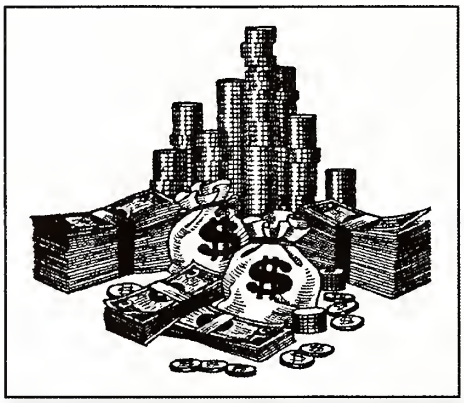
by Donald Fader

There is some pretty grim news circulating about the economy. The dollar is weakening against most major currencies. As of the first of February the stock market has been selling off, home prices are down, and foreclosures are up.

In an effort to jumpstart the economy the President and Congress signed off on an economic stimulus package which would pay $600 to $1,200 to most families along with $300 to the elderly and minor children. It appears that the politicians and their advisors thought that giving people money would be a popular thing to do; go figure. The problem is that we don't elect our politicians to do the popular thing; we elect them to lead us.

Left to their own devices people are going to go where they want to go. Leadership involves a vision of where we need to go and bold people to show us the way. Perhaps this is why we call our elected officials politicians instead of leaders. It's easy for the politicians to write a check when they don't have to make it good. I mean, after all, the government prints the money; so, what is another $150 billion which is the estimated cost of this program? Just so you know, it adds another $500 dollars to your share of the national debt which as of February 10 was $30,350 dollars.

The point here is that when it comes to financial responsibility the government does not provide a good example for you and me to follow. There is real concern at the highest levels that we may be heading for a recession which is defined by economists as two straight quarters of decline in the gross domestic product or GDP. Recessions are characterized by an increase in unemployment, decline in corporate profits and the depreciation of investments such as housing and stocks.



Financial Planning: A Biblical Perspective

What can you do to head off a recession? Everybody talks about it and worries about but in the end they can do nothing about it on the macro level. That is not the case on the micro level, where you and I live. Our country experiences a recession about every 7–10 years. However, the good news is that you can prepare yourself for the inevitable by making the right choices about your own personal financial situation.

It's amazing that so much of what happens to us as we go through life is not so much the result of external events as it is the individual choices we make everyday. Jesus taught a parable about a builder and his choice of foundations. You know the one in Matthew 7 in which Jesus describes the choice of building on sand or on rock. The storm came and destroyed the house built on sand while the one built on the rock remained standing.

Many people sit among the ruins wringing their hands asking why God allowed the storm to happen. Was He testing us? Is He punishing us? Look past the storm and examine the choices made by the builder and the results of those choices. The storms are unavoidable. They are going to happen and you cannot control that. However you can control the choices you make leading up to the storm.

For the financial storm that is on the horizon you need to prepare. Maybe this one will blow by—maybe not. Regardless, you need to be ready.

One, minimize your debt and stop using credit cards if you cannot pay them off at the end of each month. Make the sacrifices necessary to remain debt free.

Two, adopt a lifestyle in keeping with your income. Set aside your tithes and offerings, contributions to your retirement, and deposits into a savings account. Then feel free to spend the rest on necessities and, if there is anything left, buy something you want. Pay God first, you second, and then live on the balance. If you can't do that you need to scale back your lifestyle. Make the right choice.

Three, maintain an adequate reserve which is a minimum of 6 months of income. Remember, that is a reserve and should not be touched for any purpose other than a legitimate emergency.

In the midst of a financial storm our faith sustains us with courage, hope, and optimism of brighter days ahead; our savings insulates us from events beyond our control. The absence of debt frees us from the expense of money long spent and allows us to work today with our eye toward the future instead of a ball and chain anchoring us to our past.

When the rains fall and the winds blow, your house will stand because you made the right choices.

POWHATAN HOPES FOR SCHOOL WITH SAME NAME

Board of Education member Donna White visited Powhatan on Wednesday evening, January 23, to give information about the new elementary school being built in the community. There was a one-room school on the church property in the late 1800s named "Powhatan," and the surrounding landowners for the new school feel the name should be put back on the new building. The majority of the church members present voted to see the name kept. Saying that too much history is being lost, Rita Jones expressed that the name in itself would be a history lesson to the young people there. She said there was also a post office by the train tracks near the church in the 1800s called "Powhatan" in honor of the community it served. The Rev. Rayford Byrd, neighbor to the property where the school is being built, said he had family members who had attended the old Powhatan School. He also explained that it had been made clear at the earlier community meeting that a school could not be named for a family and felt assured it could therefore not be named for the Vinson family, which has expressed interest in the name "Vinson Road Elementary." The Johnston County school board will make the final decision at their February meeting.

Praise the Lord for the ones who were baptized in a service on January 27—Marie Carroll, Dianne Barrett, and Wayne and Drew Honeycutt.

The Woman's Auxiliary sponsored a chicken pastry supper on Saturday, January 26. Thanks to the community participation; over $500 was raised for annual projects.

On Sunday, January 6, Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church of Newton Grove honored the members who had achieved perfect attendance for 2007 with pins and certificates. Those recognized were (from left to right) Rose Johnson, Carolyn Underwood, Grace Jones, Rachel West, and Cassie Holland. Willa Dean Daughtry, the Woman's Auxiliary Vice President, made the photograph.

SMYRNA NEWS

"It All Happened in the Country!" was the title of the Christmas program presented December 16, 2007 at Smyrna Original Free Will Baptist Church located in the Meadow community.

Directed by Sherri Allen and Kim Parker, and narrated by 'city slicker' Nathan Raynor and 'country kid' Kayla Hickok, the program features the following cast members: Jordan Allen as Chelsie, Elliot McConnell as Daniel, Erin Parker as Cora Mae, Ricky Whitman as Luther, Savak Allen as Aunt Yule, Ashley Parker as Granny, and Tina and Mitchell Allen as the Mom and Dad. The story goes that the stranded 'city slickers' found out that there is more to Christmas than the hustle and bustle of presents and decorations. With the help of Cora Mae, cousin Luther, Aunt Yule, and Granny, they learn the story of Christ's birth and how "It All Happened in the Country"...the countryside of Bethlehem.

Pictured to the left is pretty college student Ashley Parker the part of Granny with her new modern haircut covered with a wig and her Granny glasses assuring the strangers that is exactly how it all happened.

Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc.

2007 Honor Roll of Donors

for the

The Press to $125,000! Capital Campaign

This list represents gifts/pledges received January 1–December 31, 2007. The "Press" offers its heartfelt thanks to those who have contributed to our campaign. God bless you! If you would like more information on our campaign or would like the editor to come and speak to your church or group, you may contact the editor, Darren Davenport, by phone (1-800-849-3927 ext. 227) or by e-mail (editor@fwbpress.com).

2007 Gifts/Pledges = $15,658
Total Gifts/Pledges (2006–2007) = $36,783

Foundation Builders ($5,000+)

There are none at this time.

Writer's Guild ($2,500–$4,999)

There are none at this time.

Editor's League ($1,000–$2,499)

Black Jack FWB Church
Kenly FWB Church
Piney Grove FWB Church (Central)
Rose of Sharon FWB Church
Wintergreen FWB Church
Winterville FWB Church

Designer's Club ($500–$999)

M/M Darren E. Davenport
Becky Jo Sumner
King's Cross Roads FWB Church
Reedy Branch FWB Church
Stancil's Chapel FWB Church

Proofreader's Club ($250–$499)

Core Creek FWB Church
Folkstone FWB Church
May's Chapel FWB Church
Oak Grove FWB Church (CF)
Stoney Creek FWB Church, Ambassador Class

Publisher's Club ($100–$249)

M/M Russell Corbitt
Joyce Proctor Beaman
M/M Lonnie McLawhorn
Nina Grace Register
Bethel FWB Church (CF), Woman's Auxiliary
Blended Fellowship FWB Church
British Chapel FWB Church
First FWB Church, Wilson
Friendship FWB Church (C), Layman's League
Hopewell FWB Church, Woman's Auxiliary
Hugo FWB Church
Mount Zion FWB Church (A)
NC Woman's Auxiliary Convention of OFWB
Pee Dee Union 1
Pleasant Hill FWB Church (C)
Pleasant Hill FWB Church (W), Woman's Auxiliary
Reedy Branch FWB Church, Youth Ministry
Rose Hill FWB Church, Daisy Carroll Auxiliary
S. W. McCoy Farms, Inc.
Saratoga FWB Church
Union Chapel FWB Church (A)
Union Grove FWB Church

Other Gifts

Mrs. Rebecca Davenport
Black Jack Church, Woman's Auxiliary
British Chapel FWB Church
Hugo Church, Woman's Auxiliary

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14).

Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc.

Spreading the Word Through the Printed Page!

The $100,000 Spring Fever Challenge

Would you prayerfully consider taking part in the challenge to raise $100,000 by May 31st? These funds will go toward our Capital Campaign, "The Press to $125,000." We need a total of 20 one-time gifts of $2,500 and 10 one-time gifts of $5,000 to meet our goal. These funds will purchase the printer and direct-to-negative imagesetter needed to complete our equipment upgrade. This equipment will enable us to produce quality material for you, our churches, and our community. Will you partner with us in fulfilling our purpose of "Spreading the Word Through the Printed Page!" with quality and excellence? I invite you, my fellow Original Free Will Baptists, to be a part of this mission. How will you respond?

Darren Davenport, Editor

To take the challenge, fill in the form below and send with contribution (by May 31, 2008) to:
Free Will Baptist Press, ATTN: Editor, 3928 Lee St., Ayden, NC 28513

The $100,000 Spring Fever Challenge

Church Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Contact Name _____ Phone (include area code) _____

We will meet your challenge! *Our Support Level Is:*

❍ **$2,500** ❍ **$5,000** ❍ Other: _____

Please Note: Churches may give freely. However, for itemized tax deduction purposes, individuals should give through their church. In order to do this, a church should set up a fund for the Free Will Baptist Press and give through that fund. Individuals who take the standard tax deduction, may give up to the amount designated by law.

Ministry Position Available

STONEY CREEK CHURCH is seeking a full-time Youth Director. Primary duties will be to provide a comprehensive ministry to youth in grades 6–12. This is a great opportunity to work with a multi-staffed and growing church. Stoney Creek Church has approximately 200 young people in this age group. Those who may be interested are invited to send a resumé to Gary M. Bailey, Senior Pastor, Stoney Creek Church, 752 Stoney Creek Church Road, Goldsboro, NC 27534 or e-mail to <gbailey@ncrrbiz.com>. For more information, you may call Gary Bailey or Joey Williams, Director of Children's Ministry at (919) 735-3916.

PEWS FOR SALE

Yelverton Grove OFWB Church has some pews for sale.

5 Pews (7 feet long) — $150 each
19 Pews (11 feet long) — $250 each

All pews are constructed of heavy wood with a dark finish and have red padded upholstery.

Pews will be available for disposition in mid to late April, 2008.

For further information, please contact:
Clara Powell (919) 934-7032 or Claudette Lane (919) 934-3310.

Spreading the Word Through the Printed Page!

Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc.

Ayden Bible Bookstore
3928 Lee Street
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-6128 • (800) 849-3927

New Bern Bible Bookstore
1232 South Glenburnie Road
Glenburnie Plaza
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 638-6193 • (800) 875-8048

Kinston Bible Bookstore
123 North Queen Street
Kinston, NC 28501
(252) 527-2843 • (800) 875-8049

The 1st Annual

BIBLE CONFERENCE

Sponsored By:

The Fellowship of Conservative Free Will Baptists

Conference Theme:

Fundamentals of The Holy Scriptures

The Guest Speaker:

Noted Bible Teacher and Evangelist

The Reverend Bobby Jackson

Held At:

Carolina Bible Institute & Seminary

(Pine Level, NC)

Schedule:

Friday, April, 4, 2008

Session 1—starts at 1 P.M.

Session 2—starts at 3 P.M.

Session 3—starts at 7 P.M.

Saturday, April 5, 2008

The day will start at 9:30 A.M. and conclude by NOON.

2008 CRAGMONT WOMAN'S CONFERENCES
REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete ONE form per person (make copies as needed)
& mail with $20 nonrefundable registration fee to:

Joan H. Little, 7063 Stantonsburg Road, Farmville, NC 27828
(Make all checks payable to Cragmont Woman's Conference.)

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____ Church_____

Emergency Contact_____ Phone_____

PLEASE MARK ALL ITEMS BELOW WHICH APPLY TO YOU.
ROOMS WILL BE ASSIGNED IN ORDER OF REGISTRATION RECEIVED.

____A downstairs room is NEEDED due to medical reasons. (Availability is limited.)

Roommates desired: _____ _____
_____ _____

Lodging request: ____Main Bldg. (2–4 per room) ___Upstairs ___Downstairs
____New Lodge (3–4 per room)
____Motel (2–4 per room) ___Hollifield House (6–8)
____Girls Dorm ___Boys Dorm ___Floyd House (8)

CHECK Conference for which you are registering. You may register for more than one.

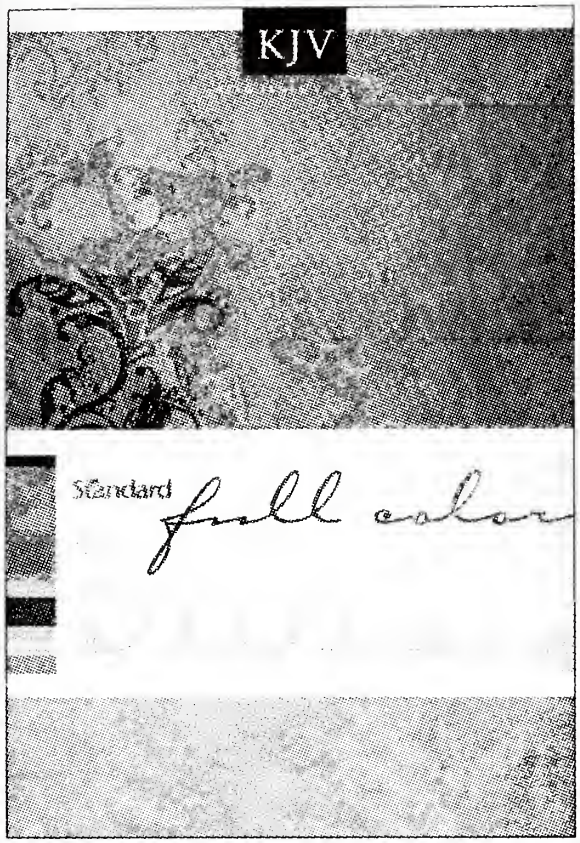
___ March 28–30 ~ Morning Star ~ Speaker: Vickie Wade
___ $20 registration fee enclosed. ($75 Balance Due upon arrival.)

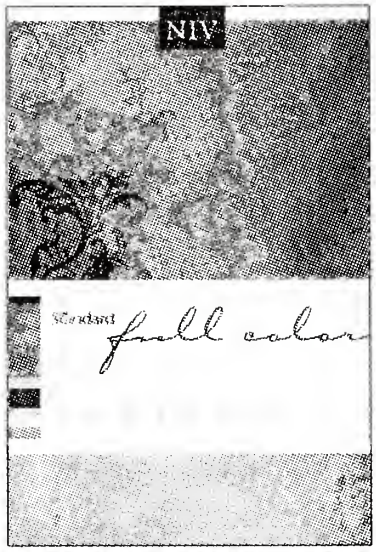
___ June 4–7 ~ Day Spring ~ Speaker: Brenda Best
___ $20 registration fee enclosed. ($85 Balance Due upon arrival.)
Day Spring Conference also welcomes couples and families.

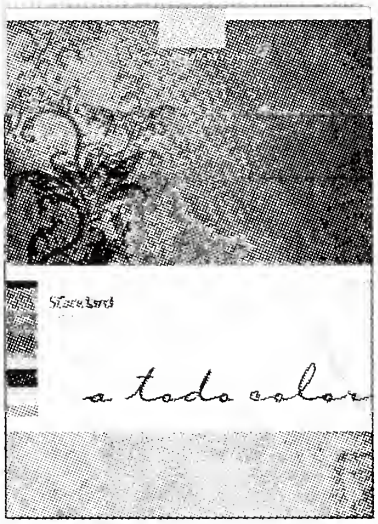
___ July 27 (Sunday)–August 1 (Friday) ~ Speaker: Donna Whitfield
___ $20 registration fee enclosed. ($120 Balance Due upon arrival.)
___ I plan to ride the bus. Travel Day will be on Sunday PM. Bus—$55.
___ I plan to go on side trip to The Billy Graham Library/Museum.
$30 nonrefundable deposit enclosed.
There will be 2 afternoon trips to Asheville. ($10 each) No deposit required.

___ September 19–21 ~ Speaker: Becky Jo Sumner
___ $20 registration fee enclosed. ($75 Balance Due upon arrival.)

All Conferences are open to all women regardless of membership or age.







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Eastern District
Spring Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Saturday, March 15, 2008
White Oak Grove OFWB Church
LaGrange, NC

Registration: 9:30 A.M. — Starts: 9:50 A.M.

Theme: "Hope for a Changing World"

Linda Herring, Worship Speaker

The Reverend Harold Jones,

Director of the

OFWB Foreign Mission Board,

will be at

Friendship FWB Church

(Middlesex, NC)

on

Wednesday, March 19, 2008 at 7:30 P.M.

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Please join us for the League Convention

on

Saturday, March 15, 2008 at 10 A.M.

at the

First FWB Church of Goldsboro, NC
(604 East Ash Street)

We will be remembering and honoring the heritage of the FWB League. The program will include a variety of familiar faces from the past and present. We will continue the League tradition with a Sword Drill and Singspiration. The convention will conclude with lunch provided by the host church. If you share a history with the League that enriched your life, make plans to join us for this very special day.

For information, contact Becky Jo Sumner at (252) 332-6810.

ATTENTION: Woman's Auxiliaries

The State Woman's Auxiliary Convention will meet May 8, 2008 at Mount Olive College, hosted by the Albemarle District. The registration fee is $25 and should be sent by April 25 to the state treasurer. Registration will begin at 8:30 A.M. In order for your local auxiliary to be registered, you must send your money to: **Mrs. Nadine Crocker, 568 House Rd., Kenly, NC 27542**. Even if you cannot attend, please send your registration anyway, as the Convention needs your support. We hope, however, to see you there. If you have any questions, please phone me at (919) 284-3341. Thank you.

Now is the time for you to collect your per capita dues, if you have not already done so. These dues should be collected during the first months of the year in time to be sent to your district treasurer, before, or in time for, your District Convention. **The dues are 40¢ per member per year.**

Send these dues to your district treasurer; she will keep 20¢ and send 20¢ to your state treasurer. It is necessary that you cooperate in this as these dues provide a part of the funds for the operational expenses of your Convention. Thank you for your past support. We know that we can continue to count on you.

Yours in Christ,
Nadine Crocker,
State Treasurer

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There is no charge for article submissions.

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The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) **When the 5th falls on a weekend, material is due on the Friday before.** You may submit items by any of the following methods:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>,
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
  PO Box 159
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Bethel Church, Four Oaks, NC
Beulaville Church, Beulaville, NC
Black Jack Church, Greenville, NC
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Daniel's Chapel Woman's Aux., Wilson, NC
Davis Church, Davis, NC
Deep Run Church, Deep Run, NC
Dilda's Grove Church, Fountain, NC
Edgewood Church, Macclesfield, NC
Elm Grove Church, Ayden, NC
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First Church, Greenville, NC
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This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 MOC Basesball @ Granger Stadium 7 P.M.	2	3	4 Tillman Distinguished Speaker Series @ MOC, 11 A.M.	5
6 3rd Sunday of Easter Sunday Serenade @ MOC, 12:15 P.M.	7	8	9	10 MOC Spring Fling @ MOC, 7:30 P.M.	11	12
13 4th Sunday of Easter	14	15 **INCOME TAX DAY**	16	17 Jay Kornegay in Concert @ MOC, 7:30 P.M.	18	19
20 5th Sunday of Easter Sunday Serenade @ MOC, 12:15 P.M.	21	22	23 **ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL'S DAY**	24	25 Jazz Friday @ MOC, 12:00 P.M. MOC Concert Choir, Spring Concert @ MOC, 8:00 P.M.	26
27 6th Sunday of Easter Sunday Serenade @ MOC, 12:15 P.M.	28	29	30			

COMING SOON:

May 11: Pentecost

NOTE:

Color(s) for Pentecost: Red or Red on White.
Red, the color of fire, represents the Holy Spirit.

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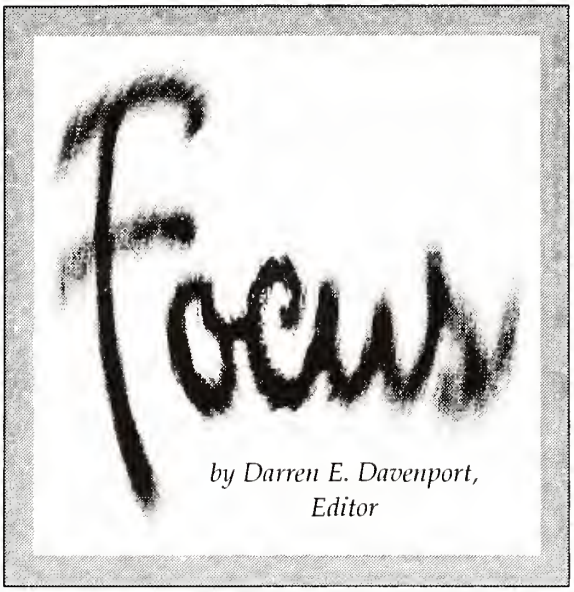
POWER VERSE

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost (Romans 15:13).



Precious Time!

Another birthday is about to knock on my door. (I'll be 39 on April 18.) I can look back—albeit, just a little while, compared to some—and wonder where all the years went. I think back to a childhood filled with lots and lots of good and fun times, as well as some not-so-good times, and wonder how such a relatively long period of time (39 years x 365 days in a year = 14,235 days) could now seem to have passed so quickly and be amazed at where I am now, how far I've come, how different I look, and so forth. It seems strange with this reflection when I have two 92-year-old grandmothers. They have so much more time on which to reflect...

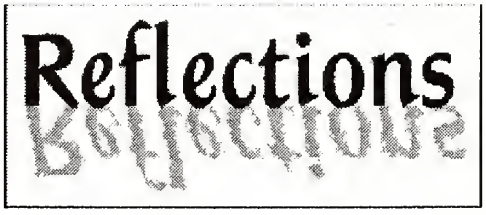
I think about the time we each have while here on Earth. Time for which God has given us, not only for ourselves, but to make a difference. This is not for our own vain glory, but for His glory. How do we use this short, sweet, precious time? How much time do we use for our spouses, our children, our friends, our careers, our faith? Granted, our faith is supposed to be a 24/7/365 faith, integral to every facet of our lives. But how well are we representing our faith? *But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does. If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless. Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.* (James 1:22–27 NASB). You decide!

I welcome your comments, criticisms, and/or suggestions. You may e-mail me at <editor@fwbpress.com>.

With Prayer and Thanksgiving

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

In Philippians 4:4–7 the Apostle Paul writes about the secret of the peace of God: "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."



In these troublesome days, with our hectic day-by-day pace and stress, the genuine practice of prayer and thanksgiving as prescribed in these verses becomes more difficult. We often take His blessings and presence for granted instead of rejoicing in them and in Him. By practice we must let our gentleness and forbearance (moderation) radiate out to others. With a sound faith we will not be filled with anxiety but find our peace in Him.

Our prayers and supplications are to be with thanksgiving. Most of the time we focus on our needs, our concerns related only to ourselves, rather than focusing on the many wonderful facets of the Christian walk.

Now more than ever, when I pray, I am more aware of rendering praise to Him, in spite of life's difficulties and up and downs, such as: Thanking Him for a home and for its comforts. I know He has blessed beyond measure. I thank Him for a soft pillow upon which I rest my head each night. I am grateful for a loving and caring wife and for children and grandchildren who make the family circle complete. I pray for them and ask God's blessings upon them. I thank Him for the blessings of Christian friends throughout our denomination, especially in the churches I have served thoughout the years, and also for the opportunities of serving my denomination. When I travel the busy highways I pray for His guidance and watch care over me, and when I reach my destination and upon returning home, I thank Him. When sorrow and heartache come, I know there are reasons for praise.

The list is unlimited in rendering thanksgiving to Him. So when we make our requests before Him, let us also rejoice in His blessings and especially for Jesus, our Savior.

Ministerial Ethics and Relationships

by W. Burkette Raper

Ethics is a way of life that is rooted in our character. Christian ethics is rooted in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ; and for ministers of the Gospel, our way of life should be Christ living in us and working through us.

It goes without saying that the minister is a Christian, and it goes with this saying that he is a gentleman...A gentleman may not be a Christian, but a Christian must always be a gentleman....Taking thought for others is the essence of ministerial ethics and etiquette. (Ministerial Ethics And Etiquette, Nolan B. Harman, Revised Edition, 1950, Abingdon Press, Nashville, Tennessee).

First, let us distinguish between "etiquette" and "ethics." Etiquette addresses what is socially correct—practices and behavior that are approved by society. Simply put, etiquette is what we call manners, and manners are important for the minister. "Good" manners will open doors for our ministry, while "poor" manners will close doors. Knowing proper table etiquette, being courteous and polite, showing respect, and expressing appreciation are marks of a gentleman, and being a gentleman is an asset to any minister.

While etiquette is horizontal, expressing what is socially correct, Christian ethics is vertical, expressing what is right in the sight of God. It is in this context that *The Free Will Baptist Code of Ethics* begins with the declaration:

I am a minister of the Lord Jesus Christ, called of God to proclaim the unsearchable riches of His love; therefore, I voluntarily adopt the following principles in order that through dedication and self-discipline I may set a more worthy example for those whom I seek to lead and serve.

This preface is a profound statement that embraces both the vertical and horizontal relationships of the ministry: Vertical—"called of God;" and Horizontal—"those whom we seek to lead and serve." It is to define these relationships that we have a Ministerial Code of Ethics.

How Came the Code

In the early 1950s, during my pastorate of Hull Road Church, I was privileged to serve on the Ordaining Council of the Central Conference. The minutes of the Council for 1953 records that "many items of un-ethical practices have been brought to us...we have met three times due to call of either church or individual with charge."

Although there were no substantiated charges, it was a concern for the reputation of the ministry that later led to the establishing of a committee to draft a Code of Ethics. The purpose of this code was to provide guidelines and a standard for the ministers of the Conference in both their personal life and in their work. Members of the committee included myself as chairman; the Rev. D. A. Windham, a member of the Education Board of the Conference; and the Rev. Charles Craddock, pastor of the Ayden Church.

The Committee reviewed the ministerial Codes of Ethics of various other denominations and selected those general items the members thought appropriate, and then added distinctive principles which they believed had special relevance to Original Free Will Baptists. Our code, therefore, is enriched by the cumulative experience of many ministers who, across generations, have pooled their wisdom regarding those qualities which best define the life and work of those engaged in Christian ministry. To this rich body of wisdom has been added those principles which express the standards and qualities which Original Free will Baptists wish to see incarnated in those whom they ordain for Christian ministry.

No code of ethics can be exhaustive in every detail, but a written code can serve as a guiding light for those qualities which the Apostle Paul described as "true, honest, just, pure, lovely and good report," (Philippians 4:8).

The Value of A Code of Ethics

Each of us can read our Code of Ethics and understand every one of the forty-seven points in it. Probably none of us has any serious question about the kind of conduct set forth in the Code. The issue we face is not intellectual nor a question of knowledge. The problem we face is the living of the Code.

To address this problem let us think of the Code of Ethics as the Apostle Paul thought of the Law in

the Old Testament. Paul described the Law as "our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ," (Galatians 3:24). In the Biblical sense, our life as Christians—both ministers and laypersons—does not begin with a code of conduct address to: the way we live; the way we treat others; and the way we lead and serve our church. Our conduct is rooted in our character. As ministers of the Gospel, our life should be Christ living in us, and our work should be Christ working through us. The foundation of Christian ethics is the way of life which comes from living out the teachings and example of Jesus Christ.

Ethics is not a "how to" manual on how to administer the affairs of a church or to serve a congregation; rather, our ethics is the fruit of our character. The bottom line of ethics is honesty—with no deceit, no façade, no hidden motive, no false impression, and no misleading representations. In the context of Christian ethics, there is no substitute for honesty and integrity. "There is no right way to do a wrong thing" (Anonymous).

If a man is honest, you do not have to tell him not to steal or not to lie. If he is not honest, no code of conduct is going to make him honest. The only thing that will make him honest is his character. The only lasting way to change our behavior is to change our character. And to change character is the mission of the Christian faith. As ministers, the most effective way to fulfill our calling is by what we truly are—our character.

People will forgive a minister for flaws in judgment and for flaws in preaching, but not for flaws in character. Character is the foundation for trust, and without being trustworthy, no pastor can be successful in the ministry. No amount of eloquence in preaching, knowledge in theology or skill in administration can overcome a lack of trust. If people trust us, we can lead them; but, if they do not trust us, our preaching is only a sounding gong.

Our Code of Ethics for ministers is good. It points us in the right way in our relationship with the churches we serve; in our relationship with our Conference and Convention; in our relationship with our fellow ministers; and in our relationship with humanity.

But knowing the Code will not within itself make us better ministers. Our ministry is the product of our character, and Christian character comes only by Christ living in us and working through us.

- We are called to preach the Word, the unsearchable riches of God's love.
- We are called to be ministers of Jesus Christ, in whom the Word was made flesh.
- And as His ministers, we are called to let the Word become flesh in us.

(The above article was adapted from a presentation made by Dr. Raper to the ministers of the Eastern Conference at Jackson Heights Church, Kinston, NC, January 25, 2008. The occasion was a study course sponsored by the Ministerial Examining Board, David C. Hansley, Chairman.)

Grace Falls From Above

by Celia Hales

My husband Paul and I have had a challenging three years as we ease into retirement. Now life has settled down, and for this we are very grateful. The big issue was remodeling—the house we were selling in Minnesota, and the house we purchased in Mississippi.

During this period I looked back to the writing of Catherine Marshall on prayer. I sought her out because I had so many things to pray about that I didn't know where to begin. Paul was coordinating the remodeling, and I was trying to be a "helpmeet," as the King James Version of the Bible asks of wives. Catherine Marshall counseled that one pray that God's blessings rain down upon those we love, those to whom we are especially close. This seemed the perfect prayer to me, and so I prayed repeatedly, over weeks, that God's blessings rain down upon the head of my beloved, my Paul. He knew nothing of this prayer.

One day not long ago Paul came in from yard work to report an oddity. He had been standing in an open area in our yard, and he said, "Rain came down on me. There was no rain anywhere else in the yard." I caught my breath, because this occurrence seemed a visible sign of the prayer I had been praying for quite a while.

As Paul went to his closet for dry clothes, I felt overwhelming happiness, and a bliss that all was well for us.

I will share this written account with Paul, and then together, perhaps, we can relish the joy of a sign—dare we say?—from Heaven. Certainly the rain itself, the grace from above, had fallen from the heavens.

My Father's "Homegoing"

A Tribute to Norman Wilson Ard

by Marla Ard Ham

On Sunday, February 17, 2008, God decided it was time for my father to end his physical suffering and leave this world. Already having a weak heart and then learning on February 12 he was suffering because of colon and liver cancer, Heaven was a much better option.

Since moving away from home seven years ago, in 2007 Daddy and I spent some time traveling back and forth to South Carolina together to visit and help care for his 96 year old mother in her last days. On one particular trip we began to discuss a prior funeral which led me to share my thoughts for his service. Since music was something we enjoyed together, and now my life due to many past sacrifices of mom and dad, I explained that I would have a choir for his funeral service. I told him we would definitely sing his old favorite, *Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul.* He just wept. I knew I had his blessing. You see, sentimental words do not come easy for Daddy or me. Through his tears, his request was for my brother, Joe, and my husband, Craig, to preach his funeral. I assured him we could handle it. We had no idea it would be eighteen months later.

My meager words cannot express the strength and peace that came over Craig, Joe, and me as nearly one hundred voices, representing nine churches, came for the 5:30 P.M. choir rehearsal at Christian Chapel FWB Church in Pink Hill, NC. My goal was to fill the forty seat chancel area. We did and much more. I had wondered all day how the three of us would hold our composure to make it through this emotional, unexpected service. God's grace calmed us as friends filed in to make my musical tribute happen. I cannot attempt to name each individual that gave of their time and talent but you know who you are and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Just know that the combination of Baptists, Methodists, and Free Will Baptists is the making of one big sound that exploded straight to Heaven that night. As Craig, Joe, and I listened to the processional hymn *Holy, Holy, Holy* sung by hundreds of fellow Christians, we were girded with strength and assurance God would get us through. He did.

To the hundreds of you that came to share our Daddy's "homegoing," we thank you. Seeing old friends from Cragmont, Mount Olive College, the FWB League, and all Eastern District events renewed wonderful memories for us. It reminded me of my OFWB heritage and the close bond we share as a denomination. Thanks for your support and memories.

At the request of my brother, Todd, on Wednesday morning we carried Daddy to his grave on a buckboard wagon pulled by two Belgian draft workhorses. As we followed behind at such a slow, quiet pace I could only think about the good life and health God gave him to teach the three of us to work hard and play hard. Being the son of a tenant farmer, Daddy understood that hard work was an integral part of living. Daddy, thanks for the lesson.

Many thanks to my mother, Margaret, who graciously gave her children the freedom to make Daddy's "homegoing" personal for all three of us. Many thanks to all of the OFWB ministers who supported us by their presence and then for those who presented mom the Christian flag. A special thank you to the Rev. Steve Hargrove and the members of Christian Chapel Church, who opened their facility to us with such graciousness. It is my family's prayer that as we celebrated Daddy's life and "homegoing" together on February 19, God was truly glorified and each of you was blessed. Thank you for all of your friendships through the years.

April is

Home Missions and Evangelism

Month

Good Shepherd Sunday

April 27, 2008

Your funds will help us to
"Touch Lives for a Lifetime."

Wood grain, black plaque with gold lettering, seal depicting Sower sowing seeds.

THE FIELD IS READY: THE TIME TO SOW IS NOW!

The Sowers Club
Your Opportunity to Plant

In April 1988, the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism introduced to Free Will Baptists the opportunity to become personally involved in planting churches. A plan called "The Sowers Club" was started. The idea for this is not a new one. The idea of the sower goes back to a brochure used by Free Will Baptist Home Missions in 1959. The idea may not be a new one, but the opportunities are. You as an individual can now become a supporter of Home Missions and Evangelism on a one-to-one basis. This plan enables you to give as much as you can to support our efforts of planting churches. You may give from $1 to $10 per week—or more if the Lord leads you to do so.

The Sowers Club is your opportunity as a Christian to become involved in carrying out the Great Commission.

HOME MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

2600 W. Vernon Ave., Kinston, NC 28504 Phone: (252) 526-9908
Email: assistant@ofwbhomemissions.org Fax: (252) 526-9918

As Christians, we do well to remember that all of life is a planting time. Our sowing, both good and bad, will eventually bear fruit. When we scatter the good seed with earnestness and prayer, we can expect a joyous and abundant harvest (Psalm 126:6).

THE SOWERS CLUB

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Date _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Church _____

Conference _____

Give correct name(s) to appear on plaque

_____

CHECK ONE BLOCK:

Other (specify) _____

_____

Amount Enclosed $ _____

_____ Monthly

_____ Quarterly

_____ Annually

The covenant may be cancelled or altered at any time.

PER WEEK

- ❑ $ 200
- ❑ $ 100
- ❑ $ 50
- ❑ $ 30
- ❑ $ 25
- ❑ $ 20
- ❑ $ 15
- ❑ $ 10
- ❑ $ 5
- ❑ $ 2
- ❑ $ 1

I'm a registered

HARVEST HELPER

Date _____

_____

When You Carry A Card Like This You Are Touching Lives For A Lifetime

- Decide today to become a partner in PRAYER EVANGELISM (1Timothy 2:1).
- By becoming a Harvest Helper, you will be participating in one of the most rewarding ministries of our church.
- Join with other Original Free Will Baptists in praying at least (2) minutes a day (5) days a week for the ministry of Home Missions and Evangelism.
- By being a Harvest Helper, you will be expanding His Kingdom.

REGISTRATION FORM HARVEST HELPER

YES I will make a commitment to help *Original Free Will Baptist Home Missions and Evangelism* **TO TOUCH LIVES FOR A LIFETIME**, by praying at least two (2) minutes each day. (Mail to: 2600 W. Vernon Ave., Kinston, NC 28504)

Name _____ Phone ( ) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church _____ Conference _____

I understand that by making this covenant, I am becoming a **HARVEST HELPER.**

_____ _____

Date Signature

The 96th Annual Session
Of the
Convention of Original Free Will Baptist

May 20–22, 2008

"Working For God Effectively"

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Rick Rusaw
Senior Minister of Lifebridge Christian Church in Longmont, Colorado. Co-Author of "The Externally-Focused Church" and "Life On Loan"

Speaking Times: Tuesday, May 20
5:30 P.M. Pastor's I.M.P.A.C.T. Banquet
7:30 P.M. Convention Worship Service

Wednesday, May 21
9:30 A.M. Worship Service
10:45 A.M. Life On Loan Workshop (*Plenary*)

Special Music by K.C.R., a dynamic ladies trio from King's Cross Roads OFWB Church

Dr. Matt Pinson
President, Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee

Delivering the Worship Sermon on Thursday, May 22, 10:45 A.M.

All activities will take place on the campus of Mount Olive College.

2008 Convention Workshops

Sunday School

The Sunday School Ministry workshop will focus on highlights of events that have occurred over the past few months, our current plans, and plans for the future. We will also be looking forward to any suggestions from the participants as to how this ministry can move forward to assist our churches in growth through the Sunday School.

Retirement Homes

This presentation will offer a brief history of Retirement Homes from its beginning to the present time. The future will focus on dreams and ideas of how this ministry can and needs to expand to help those who need our help. Discussion and input from attendees will be encouraged.

Home Missions

Topics include church planting, Hispanic and Ethnic missions, Scouting, Disaster Relief, and more. Take a look at how you can be a part of "Touching Lives for a Lifetime."

Foreign Missions

A PowerPoint presentation will give an overview of the work of Foreign Missions and explain how churches and individuals can be involved in this ministry through prayer, giving, and Short-Term Team ministry.

Children's Home

The Children's Home Ministry workshop will give you an opportunity to meet our new president, tour our campus through pictures, learn the history of the Home, learn current programs and events, and meet the children we serve.

Cragmont

Summer Camp, Get-away weekends, spiritual life retreats, conferences, or just a few days to relax. Find it all at our retreat center in the mountains. Learn more about the wonderful opportunities that await you at "The People Place."

FWB Press

Director Cliff Gray will present a brief history of "The Press" and a description of the products produced. A discussion of the challenges of producing a quality Sunday School Curriculum will include the ongoing need for good writers. The $125,00 Capital Campaign will also be reviewed.

Mount Olive College

The workshop will be built around a discussion of mission, vision, and reality for MOC. An overview of recent developments and a peek at what lies ahead will be presented. A sense of the depth and breadth of programming will be provided for the workshop participants. Some insights into the impact of this ministry on student growth and achievement will be offered.

FWB Minister's Program/Church Finance Association

Dealing mainly with finances for the church, pastor, and members this workshop will take an informative look at the critical role money plays in both our spiritual and personal life.

Life on Loan	*Life on Loan Kit: How to Use It in Your Church. This workshop will introduce church leaders to each component of the Life on Loan Kit, explaining their design and suggesting ways to use these materials in an all-church experience to effectively help the church become outwardly focused, serving its community as faithful servants of our loving God and thus gaining the right to be heard in its community when it speaks of the salvation of Jesus Christ.*
Youth Commission	*Working closely with the Woman's Auxiliary, League, and Youth Convention, this new organization promises exciting and innovative improvements in ministry to the next generation.*
Carolina Bible Institute and Seminary	*This workshop will emphasize the importance of the Word of God in every aspect of life—personal, family, business, evangelism, and church. Then, we will demonstrate our methods for teaching God's Word in all of these areas. Lastly, we will show how our students are taught the application of what we teach about the Word of God.*
NC Foundation for Christian Ministries	*The financial support you provide for your church, the denominational ministries, or your favorite charity often stops when your life is over. This workshop will focus on how to provide these institutions with perpetual financial support beyond your lifetime.*
Camp Vandemere	*This workshop will provide a brief history of Camp Vandemere, a ministry of the Eastern Conference of Original Free Will Baptists. An overview of the facility as well as summer camp schedules and special annual events will be presented.*

***** A complete Convention schedule will appear in the May issue of this publication. *****

5th Annual Cragmont *Spring Swing* Golf Tournament

Thursday, May 8, 2008 @ 1 P.M.
Ayden Golf and Country Club

Ayden Golf and Country Club is located just off Highway 102 East of Ayden
Cost: $60 per Player—$240 per Team
Format: Four Man Super Ball
Shotgun Start at 1 P.M.
Field limited to 22 teams
Prizes Awarded at the End of the Day
Handicap Each Player as an "A, B, C, or D" Senior (60+) Division Available

Make Checks Payable to "Cragmont" and Return With Registration to:
Bryant Hines, 2030 Bear Grass Road, Robersonville, NC 27871
Telephone: (252) 670-8424

Registration Form

Player 1 (Captain) _____ HNDCP _____ Age _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone ( ) _____ Email _____

Player 2 _____ HNDCP _____ Age _____

Player 3 _____ HNDCP _____ Age _____

Player 4 _____ HNDCP _____ Age _____

Cragmont 2008 schedule

Morning Star
March 28–30, 2008
Joan Little
7063 Stantonsburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Ministerial Association of OFWB
June 2–4, 2008
John Hill
312 Pineview Street
Lucama, NC 27851
(252) 239-1958

Day Spring Conference
June 4–7, 2008
Joan Little
7063 Stantonsburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Christian Cadet Conference
June 16–21, 2008
Wes Boyd
789 Riverbend Road
Goldsboro, NC 27530
(919) 736-9436

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA/AFC)
June 23–28, 2008
Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-7850

Cragmont Youth Conference
June 29–July 3, 2008
Angela Mattox
4711 Edgewood Dr.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 637-5918

Bed, Breakfast, & Blessing
July 3–7, 2008
Cragmont Assembly
1233 North Fork Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(877) 669-7677

General Youth II Conference
July 7–12, 2008
John Robert Harris/Brad Williamson
PO Box 1141
Kinston, NC 28503
(252) 522-4505

General Youth I Conference
July 14–19, 2008
Bryant Hines
2030 Bear Grass Road
Robersonville, NC 27871
(252) 670-8424

Young People's Bible Conference
July 21–25, 2008
Chuck Owens
1071 Gurley Dairy Road
Pikeville, NC 27863
(919) 734-3320

August Women's Aux. Conference
July 27–August 1, 2008
Joan Little
7063 Stantonsburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Pee Dee Youth Conference
August 4–7, 2008
Bryant Hines
2030 Bear Grass Road
Robersonville, NC 27871
(252) 670-8424

September Women's Mini Conference
September 19–21, 2008
Joan Little
7063 Stantonsburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

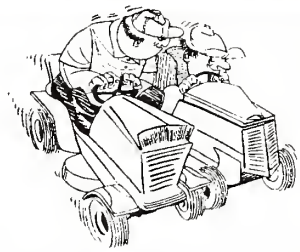
2 Day Tractor/Truck Pull

Pulling for the Kids

This 2-day event is sponsored by Cragmont Assembly, Inc. and Bethel OFWB Men's Fellowship

"Christian Camping in the Blue Ridge Mountains"

Friday, April 4th
7:00 P.M.



Hot Rod and Stock Lawn Mowers

Pulled By:
Neuse Mini Tractor Pulling Assoc.

Saturday, April 5th
12:00 P.M.

Antique Farm (Smokers) Super, Turbo, V-8 Modified

Pulled By:
Carolina Antique Tractor Pulling

KIDDIE PULL ON BOTH DAYS
(Ages 4–8)

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARD A NEW CAMPER'S LODGE

Four Oaks Pulling Track

659 Tettersville Road, Four Oaks, NC

Take I-95 to Exit 87 Four Oaks to Hockaday Rd., 2 miles to Tettersville Rd. Turn right 1 mile; track on the left. Shade trees for everyone at the track.

Admission: $7 – Regular $4 – Children (4–12)

No alcohol, drugs, or profanity allowed

For info, call: Jim Best at (919) 796-2775 or Bryant Hines at (252) 670-8424

IS THERE ANYTHING IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD?

by The Reverend Reynaldo P. Manlangit, Palawan, Philippines

Have you come to a point wherein you thought of God as far from you? When does this happen? Why should we experience such things? When are we more often hurt with these circumstances? Is it not when we felt there's something wrong with our loved ones?

I was having a visitation one day when I saw this three-year old boy having a cleft palate. As I looked at him my heart was moved. I pitied him so much. The parents said they can't afford to have him operated on because of poverty. "It is impossible." I left them with God's Word in Luke 1:37, "For with God nothing shall be impossible." But when I went home, I felt bothered. I seemed to see the lad's smiling at me. His innocence made me pray. What can I do to help?

With the help of the Board of Trustees, I sent a letter to our missionary, the Rev. Harold Jones. Glory to God! He used our brethren from Board of Foreign Missions to donate a financial help for the operation of the boy and he was successfully operated on last October 26, 2007. The brethren at Heaven's Grace First Free Will Baptist Church, Isaub, Aborlan, Palawan, wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to everybody who extended help to Jonnel Magtanong.

NEW KINDERGARTEN BUILDING

Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines

After much delay, due to building codes and requirements, the new kindergarten building on the campus of Palawan Bible College in Puerto Princesa City is well under construction. It is due to be completed before the new school year begins in July. This new building will enable us o reach many children with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We sincerely appreciate those who gave to make this building possible.

BAPTISM SERVICE IN THE PHILIPPINES

by The Reverend Marcos P. Taladro

The five baptized by The Rev. Marcos P. Taladro

Congregation singing

Praise the Lord, for He continues to add souls to His Church. It is evident through this significant occasion when we baptized five souls at Mangingisda First Free Will Baptist Church, Puerto Princesa City Palawan, Philippines on November 16, 2007. We ask everyone to pray for our congregation in Mangingisda. To GOD be the Glory.

CHURCH PLANTING IN MONCLOVA, MEXICO

by The Reverend Juan Montoya

Congregation—Aposento Alto FWB Church

Starting a church is only possible with the help and direction of God. Sometimes we do things according to our will, and it is when the work feels difficult. Sometimes it's hard to accept that there are things that we must do and things that only God can do. Over the last few months we have been working with this conviction: Doing what we have to do: go and preach the Word of God, and wait for God to the fulfillment of His Word. It is astonishing to witness what God makes in people's lives, and participate in the work of God for Blessing of others is wonderful.

God has been good to us and with the brothers who are part of the Aposento Alto Church. Everything began with prayer and simple casual invitations to worship in different homes. God has changed the lives of seven women who are participating in our church together with their children and four of their husbands. We feel privileged to witness how God has changed the lives of these seven families. The blessings are indescribable. We feel blessed to be a part of God's people, to be instruments of Him, and to be witnesses to what God is doing. I just want to thank God for everything that He does for us and in us. We also thank the Lord for the Foreign Mission Board. We have no words to thank everyone who makes it possible to sustain this work. May God richly bless you.

ANNUAL CONVENTION MISSION RALLY

Wednesday, May 21, 2008
7:30 P.M.
Kornegay Arena,
Mount Olive College

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS IS IN CHARGE.

SPEAKER:
BISHOP LAVAUGHN HUGHES

Pastor Hughes was appointed pastor of the Tabernacle of Praise in Waldorf, Md., January 16, 2000. He holds several positions in the Middle Eastern District of Original Free Will Baptist Conference, which is comprised of more than 40 churches. He is the President of the Northern District Union, which oversees seven churches located between New Jersey and Maryland. He also serves on the OFWB Ordination Council.

Pastor Hughes was consecrated to the office of Bishop in October 2006 by the Presiding Prelate of the Original Free Will Baptist Conference, Bishop L. N. Forbes and the staff of Bishops [Bishop A. C. Speakman, Bishop James Leftwidge, and Bishop J. N. Perry].

Pastor Hughes and Felecia were married on June 18, 1988 and they have 3 children, LaVaughn Jr., Alecia, and Crystal.

SPECIAL MUSIC: UNYIELDED GRACE

WINTERVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

A SPECIAL POWER POINT PRESENTATION WILL BE SHOWN ON THE SURVEY TRIP MADE BY HAROLD JONES, BISHOP HUGHES, AND DR. FRANKIE BAGGETT TO LIBERIA IN DECEMBER 2007.

SPECIAL OFFERING: Your special offering at this Mission Rally is vital for the continued growth of your missions program. Begin to pray NOW and ask God to reveal to you what your contribution should be this year. Thank you in advance for your generous response. I hope all of you can attend the Rally; but if you cannot, you can mail your special offering to: Board of Foreign Missions, P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. You will still receive credit for the Rally offering.

REMEMBER: You must earmark your check for Foreign Missions or place it in a special Foreign Missions envelope. These will be sent to every pastor and supplied at the Rally.

THE BARROW FAMILY ENDOWED FUND FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES,

In service to god and church, is pleased to present a learning opportunity for laypersons and pastors.

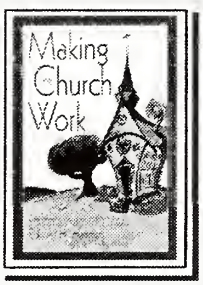
Making the Church Work in the 21st Century

Place: **First Original Free Will Baptist Church, Goldsboro, NC**

Date: **Saturday, April 26, 2008**

Time: **9:00 A.M.–2:30 P.M.**

The resource person, The Reverend Eddie Hammett, is a well known church consultant and is widely respected among OFWB. He is the author of many books on church growth and spirituality, including **Making the Church Work**. *The registration fee for the event is $10 and each person doing so will be given a copy of this book. Checks (covering both registration and book) should be made to: "Barrow Fund."*



Benefits of participating in this seminar: Discover...

- the impact of the rapidly changing culture on the church;
- practical ways of reaching people under 40 while keeping people over 60;
- how to outgrow an ingrown church;
- how to introduce and navigate the waters of change and transition in the church;
- tips on reaching unchurched persons in a 21st century world.

Seminar Topics:

Session 1: How the Culture Is Impacting the Ministry of the Church

Session 2: Introducing and Managing Change–Outgrowing an Ingrown Church

Session 3: Reaching People Under 40 While Keping People Over 60

This program is endorsed by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, OFWB Sunday School Ministry, and the OFWB Ministerial Association.

Detach and mail the following form and registration fee to:

The Barrow Family Endowed Fund
Henderson Building, Mount Olive College
634 Henderson Street,
Mount Olive, NC 28365

Lunch, not covered in the registration fee, will be provided on site by Wilbur's Barbecue, or one may choose food nearby.

REGISTRATION FOR *"MAKING THE CHURCH WORK IN THE 21ST CENTURY"*

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Phone: _____

Church to which I belong: _____

$10 Fee Included: _____ (Place check-mark here)

HOME ANNOUNCES NEED FOR FOOD

Beginning January 1, 2008, our agency will lose $25,000 from the National Breakfast and School Lunch program. These funds were designated to purchase food for the children we serve and ensure they receive nutritious well-balanced meals.

Prices for fruits and vegetables as well as milk and beef are all on the increase. Grocery prices are expected to continue to rise this year, due in part to higher prices for corn, soybeans, wheat, and other commodities, as well as rising fuel prices. Fuel is needed to process the foods and truck them across the country. With the cost of groceries and supplies increasing, it is important that we continue to be able to sustain our current food program.

Our annual costs are approximately $60,000 for the food program we use to feed the children that come through our programs. These recent changes make it necessary for us to ask churches to get involved with our efforts to provide for the needs of our children. This campaign will be ongoing throughout the entire year. It is our prayer that this food campaign will unite churches, groups, and other friends as the needed food and supplies for our children are collected.

When our boys and girls sit down for a meal, they always take time to return thanks to our God for the delicious food that fills their plates. You can be the hand that helps fill the plates for each child. Your generous contribution to our Food Pantry will make a difference to over one hundred children each year. We also encourage you to make a financial donation in lieu of a food donation. Monetary donations allow us to continue providing nutritious quality meals to children.

For information on this project, please contact Cynthia Batten, Development Office.

Dear Church Friends:

It is time to start preparing for our twelfth annual "Change For Children" campaign. Our previous campaigns have been successful, and we trust this year will prove to be even more so, thanks to you and many Free Will Baptists who saved their change for the children. These campaigns have increased awareness of our childcare ministry and general financial support for crucial months during the summer.

Your church will receive information, collection bags, and bulletin inserts in early to mid-April, but he would like for you to have your congregation start preparing now, by doing the following:
We request that you:

- Pray for your Children's Home ministry
- Encourage your church family to save their change during Children's Home month
- Designate a Sunday in May as Children's Home Sunday

This Campaign will encourage families and church groups to work together collecting their change, and provide youth and new members the opportunity to learn about the Children's Home. By increasing awareness of your childcare ministry, financial support will increase, allowing us to continue to meet the needs of His children.

The needs of the children we serve are constantly changing, but the one constant that stays the same is they are "God's children," and they need and deserve our help. The support you give allows us to make a difference in the lives of the children and families we serve, not only by supplying their physical needs, but also by providing a place and opportunity for them to be introduced to our Lord and Savior, and grow spiritually.

With my best regards, I remain...

Yours, For His Children,

Gary Lee
President / CEO

2008 Cans For Kids/Food & Supply Drive

NEEDED ITEMS:

—Green Beans
—Sweet Peas
—Mixed Vegetables
—Navy beans
—Black Eyed Peas
—Corn
—Collards (seasoned)
—Turnip Greens
—Kidney Beans
—Baked Beans
—Crushed/diced Tomatoes
—Beets
—Tomato Sauce/Paste
—Yams
—Peaches
—Pears
—Fruit Cocktail
—Pineapple
—Applesauce
—Pork n' Beans
—Canned Meats, Tuna, Chicken packed in water
—Beef Hash
—Evaporated Milk
—Hot dog Chili
—Soups (including Cream soups)
—Cranberry Sauce
—Pickle Relish
—Spaghetti Sauce
—Raviolo
—Spaghetti
—Dill Pickles
—Sweet Salad Cubes
—Mustard
—Ketchup
—BBQ Sauce
—Mayonnaise
—Miracle Whip
—Hot Sauce (Texas Pete)
—Jelly—Grape or Strawberry
—Salsa
—Chocolate & Strawberry Syrups
—Cake Icing
—Pancake Syrup
—French Dressing
—Ranch Dressing
—Bacon Ranch
—Italian Dressing
—Vinegar (White & Apple Cider
—Cooking Oil
—Cooking Spray
—Molasses
—Peanut Butter
—Beverage Mixes (Tea, Kool-Aid, Lemonade, Cider Mix (All Sugar Free)
—Pasta Salad Box Mix
—Macaroni & Cheese Mix

Dry Goods

—Rice
—Instant Oatmeal
—Instant Grits
—Saltine Crackers, Ritz Crackers & Graham Crackers
—Instant Mashed Potatoes
—Pasta
—Elbow Macaroni
—Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix
—Navy Beans
—Kidney Beans
—Pinto Beans
—Blackeye Peas
—Brownie Mix
—Cake & Muffin Mix
—Corn Meal
—Flour
—Sugar, white granulated
—Fish/Chicken Breader
—Shake&Bake Chicken & Pork
—Hamburger Helper
—Stuffing Mix
—Vanilla Wafers
—Pop Tarts
—Taco Seasoning Mix & Taco Shells
—Gravy Mixes
—Jello Pudding & Jello
—Scalloped Potatoes
—Little Debbie Snacks
—Raisins
—Dried Fruit
—Snack Foods (Fruit Rollups, Fruit Cups, Cheese Nips, Pretzels, Rice Krispie Treats, Individual Cookie Packs
—Cake Mix

Breakfast Cereals

Frosted Flakes
Honey Comb
Fruit Loops
Honey Nut Cheerios
Raisin Bran Crunch
Cinnamon Toast Crunch
Cocoa Puffs

Non-Food HouseHold Items

—Paper Products (Paper Towels, Toilet tissue, Kleenex)
—Dishwashing detergent for Automatic Dishwashers (Electro Sol, Cascade, WalMart Brand
—Alumninum Foil, Plastic Wrap, Gallon & Quart Zip Lock Bags
—Clorox Bleach
—Laundry Detergent
—Fabric Softener Sheets
—Brooms, Mops, Scrub Brushes
—Heavy Duty Mop Buckets
—Clorox II
—Comet Cleanser
—Lysol Spray
—Bathroom Cleaners - Lysol Tub Cleaner, Fabuloso, Clorox Cleanup, Soft Scrub, Pine-sol, Tilex Mildew Remover,
—Dish Detergent, Dawn, Joy, Palmolive, Ajax
—Furniture Polish (Pledge, Murphy's Oil Soap,

Personal Hygiene Items

—Soap (bars & Soft soap)
—Toothpaste
—Body Wash
—Antiperspirant (boys & girls)
—Shampoo (Suave works fine)
—Conditioner
—Hand & Body Lotion
—Disposable Razors
—Chap Stick
—Rubbing Alcohol/Peroxide
—Mouth Wash
—Band Aids
—Shaving Cream/Shaving Gel
—Sanitary Pads & Tampons

Most non-perishable food and supply items used by the Home are listed.

*****Gift cards are greatly appreciated to buy perishables and items not received.**
We currently buy food and supplies from Wal-Mart

Please check for expired dates on food

MOC IS A GREAT VALUE!

The cost to attend MOC is $5,000 less than the average cost to attend a NC private college.

• At MOC, all active Original Free Will Baptists attending the daytime program are eligible to receive a tuition grant of $2,500. In addition, NC residents who attend a private college full-time are eligible to receive the NC Legislative Tuition Grant (NC LTG) of up to $1,950. When other grants and loans are added to the total cost of attendance, MOC is a great value!

• To find out what federal grants and loans are available, new and returning college students should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at <www.fafsa.ed.gov> using the MOC code #002949. Have your tax information with you when you complete the FAFSA.

APPLICATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR FALL 2008

Mount Olive College is accepting applications for fall 2008!

• High school seniors and college transfers can use the free online application at <www.moc.edu>.

• To complete the application process, students should have their high school and/or college transcripts mailed to the MOC Office of Admissions, 634 Henderson St, Mount Olive, NC 28365.

• Tim Woodard, director of admissions, will be glad to assist students and parents with information. Contact him at (800) 653-0854 or <twoodard@moc.edu>.

MOC at JCC

Mount Olive College is offering one night a week programs at Johnston Community College. An information session for students interested in starting the Early Childhood Education Program will be held on Thursday, March 27, 6:30 P.M., in the board room of the Wilson Building.

One night a week programs are starting at a location convenient to all OFWBs. Call (800) NEW GOAL to be directed to the location nearest you or visit <www.moc.edu>. Locations include Mount Olive, Johnston Community College, New Bern, RTP, Washington, and Wilmington.

• Starting at Mount Olive Evening College:

Early Childhood Education, Monday, March 10, 2008 and May 15, 2008; 6–10 P.M.
Religion, Tuesday, April 15, 2008; 6–10 P.M.
Heritage Plus, Monday, May 19, 2008; 6–10 P.M.
Management-Information Systems, Tuesday, May 20, 2008; 6–10 P.M.
Management and Organizational Development, Thursday, May 29, 2008; 6–10 P.M.
Health Care Management, Thursday, March 13, at JCC; Monday, June 23, 2008 at Mount Olive; 6–10 P.M.

- **Starting at Mount Olive College at New Bern:**

Heritage Plus, Monday, March 31, 2008 and Thursday, June 12, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
Management and Organizational Development, Monday, May 12, 2008; 6–10 P.M.
Health Care Management, Thursday, May 22, 2008; 6–10 P.M.
Religion, Thursday, May 29, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
Criminal Justice/Criminology, Monday, June 2, 2008; 6–10 P.M.
Early Childhood Education, Thursday, June 5, 2008, 6–10 P.M.

- **Starting at Mount Olive College at RTP:**

Management and Organizational Development, Tuesday, April 22, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
Early Childhood Education, Thursday, May 1, 2008; 6–10 P.M.
Health Care Management, Wednesday, May 28, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
Heritage Plus, Wednesday, June 4, 2008, 6–10 P.M.

- **Starting at Mount Olive College at Washington:**

Health Care Management, Thursday, April 17, 2008; 6–10 P.M.
Management and Organizational Development, Thursday, April 22, 2008; 6–10 P.M.
Heritage Plus, Wednesday, May 7, 2008; 6–10 P.M.
Criminal Justice/Criminology, May 22, 2008; 6–10 P.M.

- **Starting at Mount Olive College at Wilmington:**

Management and Organizational Development, Tuesday, March 11, 2008; 6–10 P.M.
Health Care Management, Wednesday, March 26, 2008, and Thursday, June 12, 2008; 6–10 P.M.
Heritage Plus, Monday, April 14, 2008; 6–10 P.M.
Criminal Justice/Criminology, Thursday, April 22, 2008; 6–10 P.M.
Early Childhood Education, Tuesday, May 27, 2008; 6–10 P.M.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE PARTNERS WITH BARNES & NOBLE

by Rhonda Jessup, Director of Public Affairs

Mount Olive College announced today that mega-bookseller Barnes & Noble College Booksellers, Inc. will take over management of its bookstore operation effective March 15.

"We are excited about this partnership," says Bam Alling, MOC vice president for Finance. "Barnes & Noble will bring national purchasing power and merchandising to our campus."

Alling notes that the bookstore will remain in its current location in the Poole Administration Building for the time being. But, plans are calling for it to be relocated by the beginning of the 2008 fall semester to what is now the Academic Affairs building at the entrance to campus.

"The new location will make the bookstore more accessible and be closer to the academic section of campus," Alling stated. "We want the bookstore to be a visible part of campus, not just a place to buy books. The new location will serve more than just academic needs and will be a welcome place where members of the campus and local community can come to read, shop or just spend time with friends."

Not only will the new management change the look and feel of the bookstore, but it will also streamline the way books will be made available to the MOC community in the very near future. According to Alling, as part of the

contractual agreement, Barnes & Noble has the ability to launch a website where students can make their purchases online with new or used textbooks being delivered directly to a student's home or to the campus bookstore for pickup.

Additional amenities and services will include Starbucks Coffee and convenience foods, daily book buybacks, and centralized book orders for the College's six locations.

"We are delighted at the prospect of becoming a part of the Mount Olive College community," said Max J. Roberts, president of Barnes & Noble College Booksellers. "We are fully committed to providing the entire Mount Olive community with outstanding products and services and creating a vibrant partnership that serves the long-term needs of the institution."

Alling notes that Barnes & Noble will pay a commission to Mount Olive College, so all sales will benefit the institution.

"I think this is a positive move in the right direction," notes Happy Taylor, 25-year manager of the MOC Bookstore. "Barnes & Noble is a nationally recognized bookseller. They have purchasing power, the ability to get books more quickly, and they will be able to offer a bigger selection of gifts and apparel."

The upcoming retirement of Taylor spurred the College to look at options for managing the bookstore.

As far as staffing, the only change will be hiring a new manager who will be a Barnes & Noble employee. All current MOC Bookstore employees will become employees of Barnes & Noble. Additionally, Barnes & Noble plans to hire and train student employees to work during peak rush times.

Barnes & Noble College Booksellers is a privately held sister company to Barnes & Noble, Inc., the nation's largest bookseller. Based in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, Barnes & Noble College Booksellers manages bookstores at more than 650 colleges and universities across North America.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE HONORED WITH PRO PATRIA AWARD

The North Carolina Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) committee presented Mount Olive College with the Pro Patria Award, the highest state-level award given to a civilian employer by the US Department of Defense. Mount Olive College was awarded the Pro Patria Award representing small, private business in North Carolina for 2007.

"It was such a humbling honor to be highlighted as a patriot while in the midst of our service men and women," said Dr. Ellen Jordan, vice president for Academic Affairs. "Mount Olive College is proud of our relationship with the guard and reserve. I feel there is so much more we can do to promote this

dedication to our country."

Mount Olive College was nominated by Captain Ted Janicki, assistant professor of computer science. Dr. Janicki has been in the Air Force Reserves for 15 years. He was called to active duty in May 2006 and served a year in Afghanistan as a communication officer. While in Afghanistan, he remained on the Mount Olive College faculty teaching on-line courses from the warzone. Dr. Janicki also taught a public speaking course to five fellow airmen that enabled them to complete their Community College of the Air Force associate degrees. Mount Olive supplied the text books and administrative assistance. In addition, Mount Olive College students, staff, and faculty sent care packages to the troops and Afghanistan children.

Dr. Jordan accepted the award on behalf of Mount Olive College at the North Carolina Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Annual Employer Recognition Banquet held February 16, in Raleigh, NC. Along with Dr. Jordan, Dr. Janicki also took the stage to represent Mount Olive College.

The North Carolina Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Annual Employer Recognition Banquet recognized several Above and Beyond Award winners. These awards represent those employers who exceed legal requirements for providing support to service members who serve in the guard and reserve. Mount Olive College not only received this award but was selected for the Pro Patria Award, which is presented to those employers who demonstrate exceptional support for our national defense by adopting personnel policies that make it easier for their employees to participate in the National Guard and Reserve. The Latin phrase Pro Patria translates to "For the Country." Mount Olive College was one of three employers to receive this honor and represents the small business category for North Carolina for 2007.

Mount Olive College now has the honor to represent the State of North Carolina for the National level Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The nomination will be reviewed and the selection will take place this spring. If chosen, Mount Olive College will be invited to the White House for the ceremony in September.

PHI BETA LAMBDA OFFICERS INSTALLED AT MOC

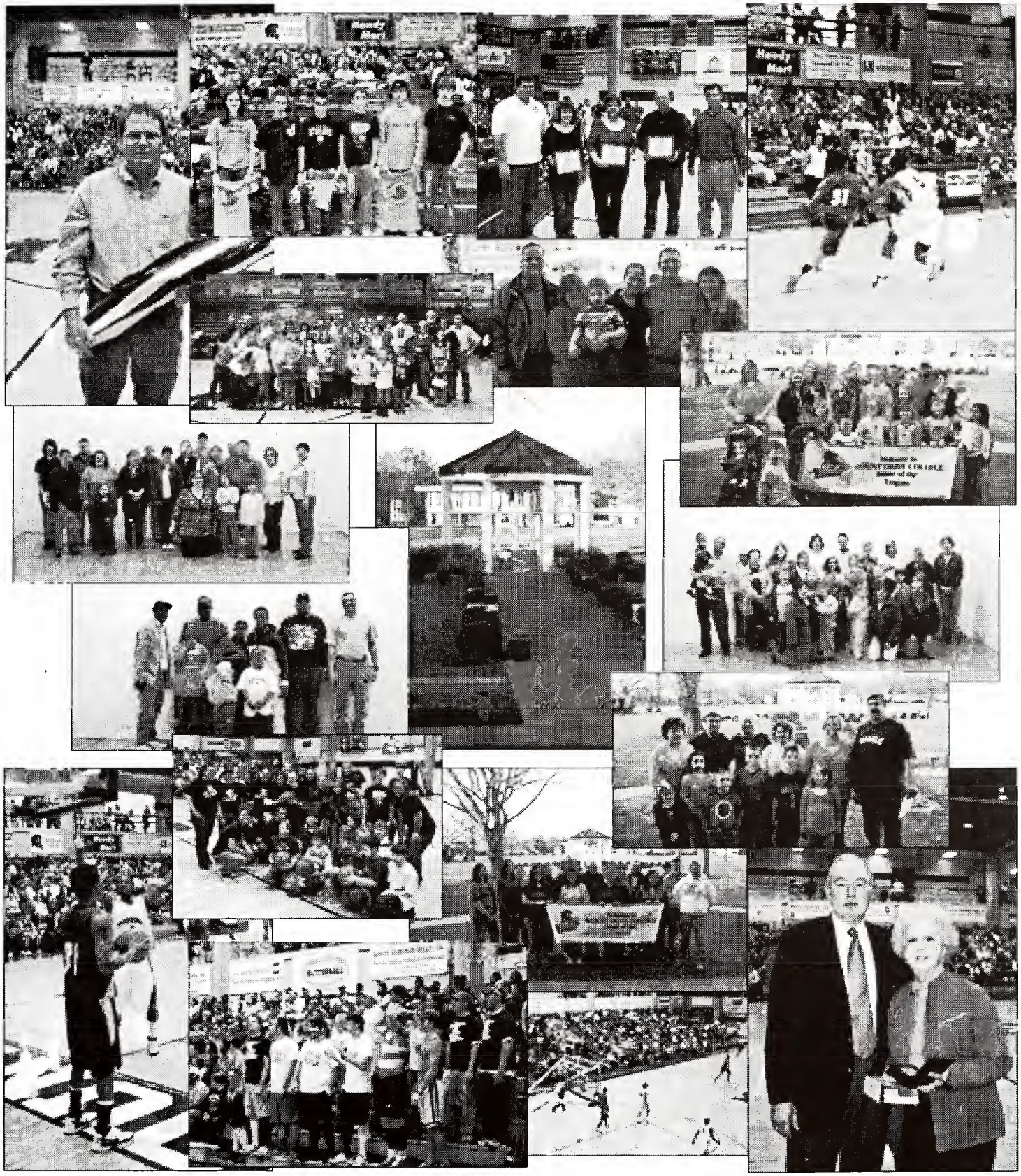
Seven new officers were recently installed in the Zeta Epsilon Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda at Mount Olive College during a joint ceremony with the Gamma Chi Chapter at Wayne Community College.

Installations included Crystal Guy of Clayton as president; Victoria Taylor of Castle Hayne as vice president; Mary Hare of La Grange as secretary; Hope McPherson of Clarendon as treasurer; Roshelle Branch of Dudley as Historian; and Kristen Parker of Princeton as parliamentarian. During the event 19 new members were also inducted in the Epsilon Chapter of PBL.

"The Phi Beta Lambda Chapters at Mount Olive College and Wayne Community College started the tradition several years of holding joint member induction and officer installation ceremonies," stated Sonya McCoy O'Brien, MOC PBL advisor. "Chapter members enjoy the networking opportunities this event provides. After the ceremony, members meet to share ideas on fundraising, upcoming conferences, community service projects, and recruiting."

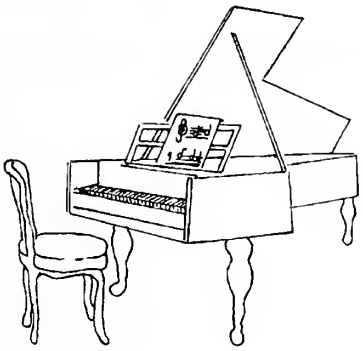
Phi Beta Lambda (PBL), one of the oldest student organizations at Mount Olive College, is a national association for future business leaders. The association promotes education and unity among members and business majors. It is an integral part of the instructional program and promotes a sense of civic and personal responsibility.

FWB Church Night



Welcome to
MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

MOC WELCOMES BACK THE WEST FAMILY



Wayne and Ruth Cotton Clark West inspired MOC students, faculty, and staff during a recent chapel service in which the couple provided a dynamic worship experience that included upbeat Christian music and a thought-provoking message. The Wests travel across America leading workshops, Christian Retreats, and Church Renewal conferences under the sponsorship of their ministry, "Praise Unlimited."

"It was a blessing and joy for Wayne and Ruth to spend the day at MOC! We enjoyed a very fulfilling chapel service followed by lunch and they even stayed to hang out and hear Free Spirit practice later in the day," stated current student Laura Thompson. "They are certainly graced with the presence of God, and it is evident in their work, in their play, their attitudes, and genuine care and concern for the people in their lives. I praise God for allowing our paths to cross for a short time and hope that we will meet again soon!"

Wayne and Ruth Cotton are both MOC alumni from the early 1960s. Ruth Cotton West is the granddaughter of the Reverend and Mrs. J.C. Moye for whom Moye Library is named and is originally from the First Free Will Baptist Church of Greenville. Wayne is originally from the First Free Will Baptist Church of Plymouth. The Moye family has had a long term relationship with the College. The Rev. J. C. Moye was a prominent FWB minister and his wife Mrs. Ethel Moye served on the Board of Trustees. They established the first library endowment at the College. Dr. Robert Moye, son of Mr. and Mrs. Moye, was Business Manager at the College for a period of time and also an instructor.

"I renewed my acquaintance with Wayne and Ruth Cotton this past November when they came to the Greenville Church for a 'Day of Renewal'," stated Dr. David Hines, chairman of the Religion department. "I was impressed with their passionate concern for people and their ability to connect with people of all ages—which is why I tried to find a way to bring them to MOC for a Chapel program. There is an ageless quality in their approach to ministry."

FIRST WINTER GLITZ AT MOC DAZZLED ATTENDEES

Arches of light, banks of snow, and images replicating the New York skyline set the mood for the first-ever "Winter Glitz—An Evening in Central Park" at Mount Olive College. The event, which was organized by the Alumni Board to raise funds for student scholarships at the College, was an overwhelming success.

"It was a wonderful evening and a very successful event for our very first," stated Alumni Director Dianne Riley.

Local and out-of-town guests, community leaders, students, art lovers, patrons, and alumni mingled under the twinkling lights and pursued the scores of donated items

for the silent auction which included weekend getaways, sporting event packages, jewelry, entertainment packages and artwork.

"It was a great event for the benefit of scholarship recipients, some of whom also helped with the table service too," said Dr. Barbara Kornegay, vice president for Enrollment at MOC.

While official revenue totals are still pending, the event promises to give a significant boost for student scholarships, with funds expected to exceed $16,000 with 209 attendees.

"We are pleased with the preliminary numbers from the Glitz," said Riley. "We had a very positive turnout."

Entertainment for the optional black-tie event included Freddie Pierce as master of ceremonies. John Clifton performed a medley of Broadway tunes, monologues, and visual theatrics. Tom Casey, a local CPA and musician, accompanied Clifton and provided dinner music.

It was a wonderful night," stated Faith Cameron, owner of Cameron DeGrechie Designs, Ltd. "The food was delicious and the entertainment was extraordinary. It truly was a success and hopefully only the beginning of many to come!"

Pioneer College Caterers displayed their culinary expertise with the mouth-watering menu which consisted of spinach salad, bacon wrapped filet mignon, roasted red potatoes, and stuffed tomatoes. For dessert there was a choice of decadent red velvet cake or delectable New York-style cheesecake with fresh strawberries.

According to Riley, many individuals are to be credited for the success of the evening including Co-Chairwomen Francine Cooke of Winterville and Karen Sutton of Clinton. Rhonda Wiggins, Faith Cameron, and Ernie Taylor all of Mount Olive and Carolyn Hill of Raleigh were also part of the planning committee.

"Francine and I wanted to plan an evening that would exceed everyone's expectations," stated co-chairwoman Karen Sutton. "I truly hope we did."

Cooke echoed those sentiments and added, "We hope to make this an annual event and want to thank the many sponsors and volunteers who made it the success that it was."

APRIL COMING EVENTS AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

- April 1—7:00 P.M.
  MOC Baseball Trojans vs. Kinston Indians
  Grainger Stadium—$5

- April 6—12:15 P.M.
  Sunday Serenade
  Lois K. Murphy Regional Center

- April 17—7:30 P.M.
  Jay Kornegay in Concert
  Southern Bank Auditorium

- April 25—8:00 P.M.
  MOC Concert Choir - Spring Concert
  Southern Bank Auditorium

- April 27—12:15 P.M.
  Sunday Serenade
  Lois K. Murphy Regional Center

- April 4—11:00 A.M.
  Tillman Distinguished Speaker Series
  Southern Bank Auditorium

- April 10—7:30 P.M.
  MOC Singers—Spring Fling
  Lois K. Murphy Regional Center

- April 20—12:15 P.M.
  Sunday Serenade
  Lois K. Murphy Regional Center

- April 25—12:00 P.M.
  Jazz Friday
  Lois K. Murphy Regional Center

For more information visit <www.moc.edu> or call (800) 653-0854.

"For even hereunto were ye called: Because Christ also suffered for us, Leaving us an example, That we should follow his steps (1 Peter 2:21).

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

A priority of the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries is to provide scholarship assistance for those called to Christian ministry. Eligible applicants are those who wish to prepare for excellence in either an ordained ministry or a commissioned ministry.

The ordained ministry includes pastorate of churches and chaplaincy. A commissioned ministry is for those who are called to a Christian vocation which does not necessarily require ordination, but is under the auspices of the church.

For scholarship purposes, the Foundation defines "Christian Ministry" as a vocation in an institution, organization or program that is sponsored by the church. The above information is intended to include vocations in all ministries of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.

During the 2007–2008 academic year, the Foundation is providing scholarship assistance in the total amount of $17,500 to fifteen (15) Original Free Will Baptist students who are preparing for Christian ministry at Mount Olive College (in both traditional and non-traditional programs); Campbell University Divinity School; Union Seminary in Richmond; Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky; and Southeastern Baptist Seminary at Wake Forest.

Funding for scholarships is provided by endowments and gifts from individual, churches and church-related organizations. All churches are encouraged to include the scholarship Fund of the Foundation in their budget.

Application Deadline

The Foundation will accept applications for fall semester 2008 through June 30. A requirement for a Foundation scholarship is that applicants must be accepted at an academically accredited institution and also apply on schedule to that institution for all scholarships and grants for which they are eligible.

Application forms and other information may be obtained by contacting:

North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries
619 West Main Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365
Phone (919) 658-3855 or (919) 658-5250
E-mail: wraper@moc.edu

You Are Invited

3rd Annual Session

NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008
6:45 P.M.—Dinner
7:30–8:30 P.M.—Program and Foundation Report

Little Rock Original Free Will Baptist Church
Lucama, North Carolina

This event is open to the public and all who attend will be guests of the Foundation. Come and learn how Original Free Will Baptists can have a greater future and more faithfully fulfill God's purpose for our Church.

Reservations Required by April 14

_____ Yes, I (we) plan to attend the Foundation dinner and program on April 22:

Name(s) _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone ( )_____ Church _____

Respond to: N.C. Foundation For Christian Ministries
619 West Main Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365

Phone (919) 658-3855 or (919) 658-5250

Email: wraper@moc.edu

Please list the names of others who will be in your party: _____

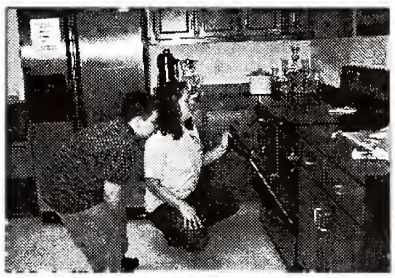
_____

POWHATAN NEWS

On Saturday evening, February 9, a group of 23 from Powhatan attended the "Church Night" basketball game at Mount Olive College. Thank you to our newest driver, Kristen Davis, for driving the bus for us. Shyanne Davis and Clayton Bennett took part in the half-time free throw contests with Mr. Bennett coming in second for the adults (after several tying shots were made between the last two contestants).

On Saturday, February 16, about $280 was raised at the Soup/Chili/Sandwich fundraiser sponsored by the youth. The funds will help support the new program of fourth Sunday evening meals for the youth group.

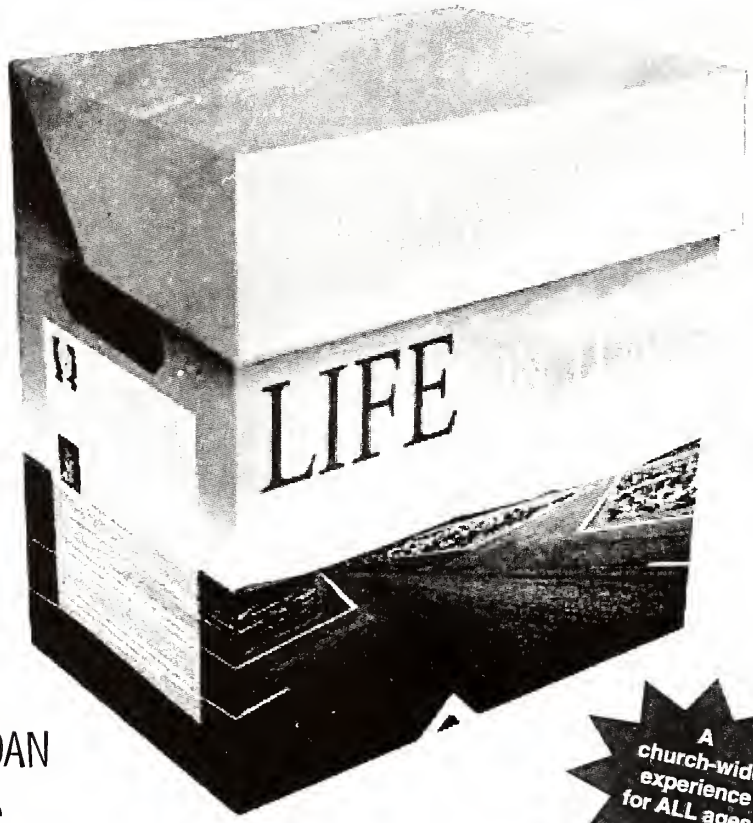
The Smith Family returned to Powhatan for a gospel sing on Saturday evening, February 23. The house was full and the fellowship was wonderful! The Rev. Roger Hill (Oak Grove) took his familiar place at the piano he had played regularly for so many years in the past. Several area churches that enjoy good worship music were represented. A pizza supper followed in the fellowship hall so everyone could visit some more.



Hayley Benson and Jordan Hardy check the grilled cheese sandwiches to see if the next batch is ready at the youth fundraiser on February 16.

Bethel's Dennis Lee and his wife were surprised at a retirement banquet on February 22 to learn that the retiring co-worker of Dennis' was Rita Jones from Powhatan (30+ years with the state).

Norlynn and Nadine Matthews, members of St. Mary's Grove OFWB near Benson, were recently awarded their 53rd Faithful Attendance Sunday School pins. They are members of the Joe Hobbs class and joined St. Mary's Grove in 1957. They will also celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary in July.



A church-wide experience for ALL ages!

Life On Loan

A Church-Wide Experience for All Ages

based on the book Living a Life on Loan *by Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson*

Standard Publishing

Retail: $159.99 **Special Offer: $135.99**

Becoming an externally focused church is not only about changing the mechanics of ministry, but about creating a culture of serving others that will open the door to lives that intentionally intersect with others.

Life on Loan™ is the tool you need to begin the transformation—a six-week, church-wide experience that leads adults, students, and children through a study of what it means to live a life that is on loan from God.

Resources included in this kit:

- *Living a Life on Loan* hardcover book
- *Life on Loan Adult Study Guide*
  A six-week study that complements the *Living a Life on Loan* book by Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson.
- *Life on Loan Adult Study Guide DVD*
  A video introduction by Rick Rusaw examining key biblical texts for each lesson.
- *Life on Loan Student Ministry Edition*
  Flexible curriculum activities for any group of teens. Each session contains three video segments on DVD and printable resources for in-depth Bible study and lesson application and an easy-to-follow lesson plan for leaders.
- *Life on Loan Student Devotions*
  Daily devotions to encourage students to live a life that is on loan from God—a life focused on serving others.
- *Life on Loan Children's Ministry Edition*
  Large group/small group video curriculum includes six teaching sessions for early childhood(3–5) and six teaching sessions for elementary (6–12). Each session provides large group activities, small group ideas, video, and printable resources for kids and parents.
- *Life on Loan* Resource Pack on CD & DVD
  Includes promotional video, planning materials, clip art/graphic images, plus links to online resources.
- *Life on Line* promotional posters (6)
- *Life on Loan* promotional postcards (25)

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All prices are 15% off retail!

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Mail orders—require a check or money order or an in-store account for payment.

Fill in and mail this order blank to the above address.
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Church Name_____
Attention_____
Address_____
City, State, Zip_____

SHIP TO: (If Different From Bill To)

Church Name_____
Attention_____
Address_____
City, State, Zip_____

Item #	Qty	Title	Price Each	Total
80506		Life on Loan: Starter Kit	135.99	
24303		Living a Life on Loan: Adult Book	16.99	
41141		Adult Study Guide	5.94	
41150		Adult Study Guide DVD	25.49	
23276		Student Ministry Edition	33.99	
23277		Student Devotions	5.09	
03370		Children's Ministry Edition	33.99	
80508		Life on Loan Posters (6)	5.09	
80509		Life on Loan Postcards (25)	5.09	
80507		Resource Pack CD/DVD	16.99	
			Subtotal	
			Tax (NC only—6.75%)	
			Shipping (10% of subtotal—$4.95 Min.)	
			Grand Total	

Psalms for the Soul

by Linda Herring

The Bible speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. Psalm 111:10 says, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding..." (NIV). The psalmist speaks of two wonderful qualities: wisdom and understanding. He points out that each of these has a moral foundation. The foundation of wisdom is the fear of the Lord and the foundation of understanding is following the Lord's precepts. Where these qualities are lacking, we should not expect either true wisdom or understanding. There are many clever, educated people who do not have wisdom or understanding. Cleverness is a matter of the mind, but wisdom springs from the heart. The Bible says if you want wisdom, you must ask it from God who gives it liberally. If we want understanding, we need to study God's Word. In return, God will give us wisdom and understanding. Help us Lord to seek you. Do not let the stresses of the day steal our Psalm.

If you have any comments or prayer requests, you can contact me at <herring.theword@hotmail.com>.

MRS. IDA OLIVER STYRON

(This article is a partial reprint from p. 13 of The Free Will Baptist, *Wednesday, October 16, 1963, Vol.78, No. 39.)*

Golden Oldies

Mrs. Ida Oliver Styron was born at Pine Level on July 31, 1897 to Dan U. Oliver and Sallie Braswell Oliver. She was a member of the Pine Level church from childhood, as were her parents and the parents of her father, from the beginning of the church.

She attended school in Pine Level and the Free Will Baptist Seminary in Ayden which was founded in 1896. There she met the Rev. Simon H. Styron of Sea Level. They were married on December 24, 1916. To this union were born three children: Ruth, Ralph, and Simon.

During the pastorate of her husband of the Pine Level Church, Mrs. Styron was a faithful member and a helpful wife to her pastor-husband. Mr. Styron served the church for 23 years and was pastor at the time of his death in 1939. Afterward, "Miss Ida" continued to rear her children in a religious atmosphere by carrying on in the way that Mr. Styron would have her do by keeping on with the church work as long as she lived. She served the church as organist, choir director, youth leader, and Sunday school teacher. She also served as president, secretary, and treasurer of the local auxiliary and was president at the time of her death. She served as treasurer and other chair positions of the Western District. The district awarded her a Life Award Pin in December of 1962, at her local auxiliary meeting, along with an auxiliary pin from the Pine Level auxiliary. She was very active in fundraising campaigns when the church was being built, and worked hard for the progress of it as long as health would permit, for she dearly loved her church. Even to the last, she did what she could with a desire to be able to go back to church. She remarked, "If I can only get able to go back to church I will be satisfied," and at that time she had only missed three Sundays.

Mrs. Styron's activities were not confined exclusively to her family and church for she was always ready to help the sick, sometimes sitting up all night with sick neighbors, ready to help them wherever help was needed.

In the silence of the night, June 16, 1963, our heavenly Father, in His infinite wisdom, called her to her eternal reward.

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Would you prayerfully consider taking part in the challenge to raise $100,000 by May 31st? These funds will go toward our Capital Campaign, "The Press to $125,000." We need a total of 20 one-time gifts of $2,500 and 10 one-time gifts of $5,000 to meet our goal. These funds will purchase the printer and direct-to-negative imagesetter needed to complete our equipment upgrade. This equipment will enable us to produce quality material for you, our churches, and our community. Will you partner with us in fulfilling our purpose of "Spreading the Word Through the Printed Page!" with quality and excellence? I invite you, my fellow Original Free Will Baptists, to be a part of this mission. How will you respond?

Darren Davenport, Editor

To take the challenge, fill in the form below and send with contribution (by May 31, 2008) to:
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Western District
Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Wednesday, April 2, 2008
Piney Grove OFWB Church, Kenly, NC

Registration: 9:00 A.M. — Starts: 9:30 A.M.

Theme: "God's Promises"

Kitty Barnes, Guest Speaker

For Directions Call:
Libby Pope (919) 284-2509 or Iris Pittman (919) 284-2722

Churches & Ministry Positions Available

SWEET GUM GROVE CHURCH, Stokes, NC is seeking a full-time pastor. Interested candidates should send a resumé to Kay Brown, 4545 NC 11 North, Bethel, NC 27812.

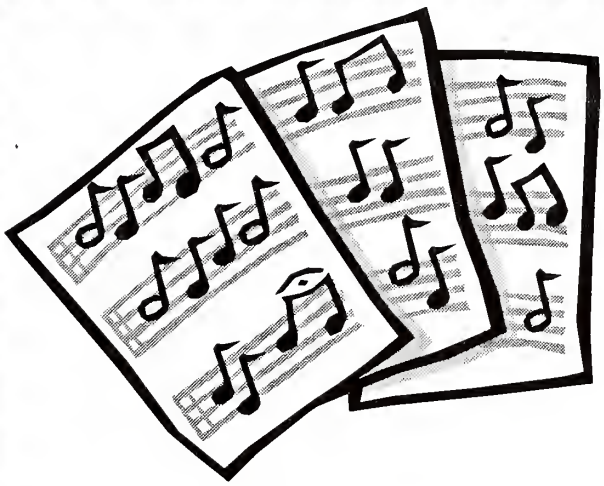
ATTENTION: Woman's Auxiliaries

The State Woman's Auxiliary Convention will meet May 8, 2008 at Mount Olive College, hosted by the Albemarle District. The registration fee is $25 and should be sent by April 25 to the state treasurer. Registration will begin at 8:30 A.M. In order for your local auxiliary to be registered, you must send your money to: **Mrs. Nadine Crocker, 568 House Rd., Kenly, NC 27542**. Even if you cannot attend, please send your registration anyway, as the Convention needs your support. We hope, however, to see you there. If you have any questions, please phone me at (919) 284-3341. Thank you.

Now is the time for you to collect your per capita dues, if you have not already done so. These dues should be collected during the first months of the year in time to be sent to your district treasurer, before, or in time for, your District Convention. **The dues are 40¢ per member per year.**

Send these dues to your district treasurer; she will keep 20¢ and send 20¢ to your state treasurer. It is necessary that you cooperate in this as these dues provide a part of the funds for the operational expenses of your Convention. Thank you for your past support. We know that we can continue to count on you.

Yours in Christ,
Nadine Crocker,
State Treasurer



Albemarle District Woman's Auxiliary
presents

Spring Spiritual Retreat

A morning filled with music, more music, and even more music!
A morning full of praise & fellowship to worship our Lord!

Shiloh Free Will Baptist Church
Saturday, April 12, 2008

Registration begins at 9:20 A.M. 𝄞 Retreat opens at 9:30 A.M.

Guest Speaker: Marci Rollins-Smart
Praise Choruses led by Janie Taylor and Albemarle Youth

Lunch will follow. Please join us for a spirit-filled day.

Note about the State Convention: Registration will take place at Murphy Center; transportation will be provided from there to Rodgers Chapel, if needed.

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The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) **When the 5th falls on a weekend, material is due on the Friday before.** You may submit items by any of the following methods:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>,
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- Hand deliver, or
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Bethel Church, Four Oaks, NC
Beulaville Church, Beulaville, NC
Black Jack Church, Greenville, NC
Black Jack Grove Church, Goldsboro, NC
Cabin Church, Beulaville, NC
Charity Mission/Church, Whiteville, NC
Christian Chapel Church, Pink Hill, NC
Core Creek Church, Cove City, NC
Covenant Church, Hope Mills, NC
Crab Point Church, Morehead City, NC
Croatan Church, New Bern, NC
Daly's Chapel Church, Seven Springs, NC
Daniel's Chapel Woman's Aux., Wilson, NC
Davis Church, Davis, NC
Deep Run Church, Deep Run, NC
Dilda's Grove Church, Fountain, NC
Edgewood Church, Macclesfield, NC
Elm Grove Church, Ayden, NC
Everett Chapel Church, Clayton, NC
First Church, Durham, NC
First Church, Goldsboro, NC
First Church, Greenville, NC
First Church, High Point, NC
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First Church, Tarboro, NC
First Church, Warsaw, NC
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First Church, Wilson, NC
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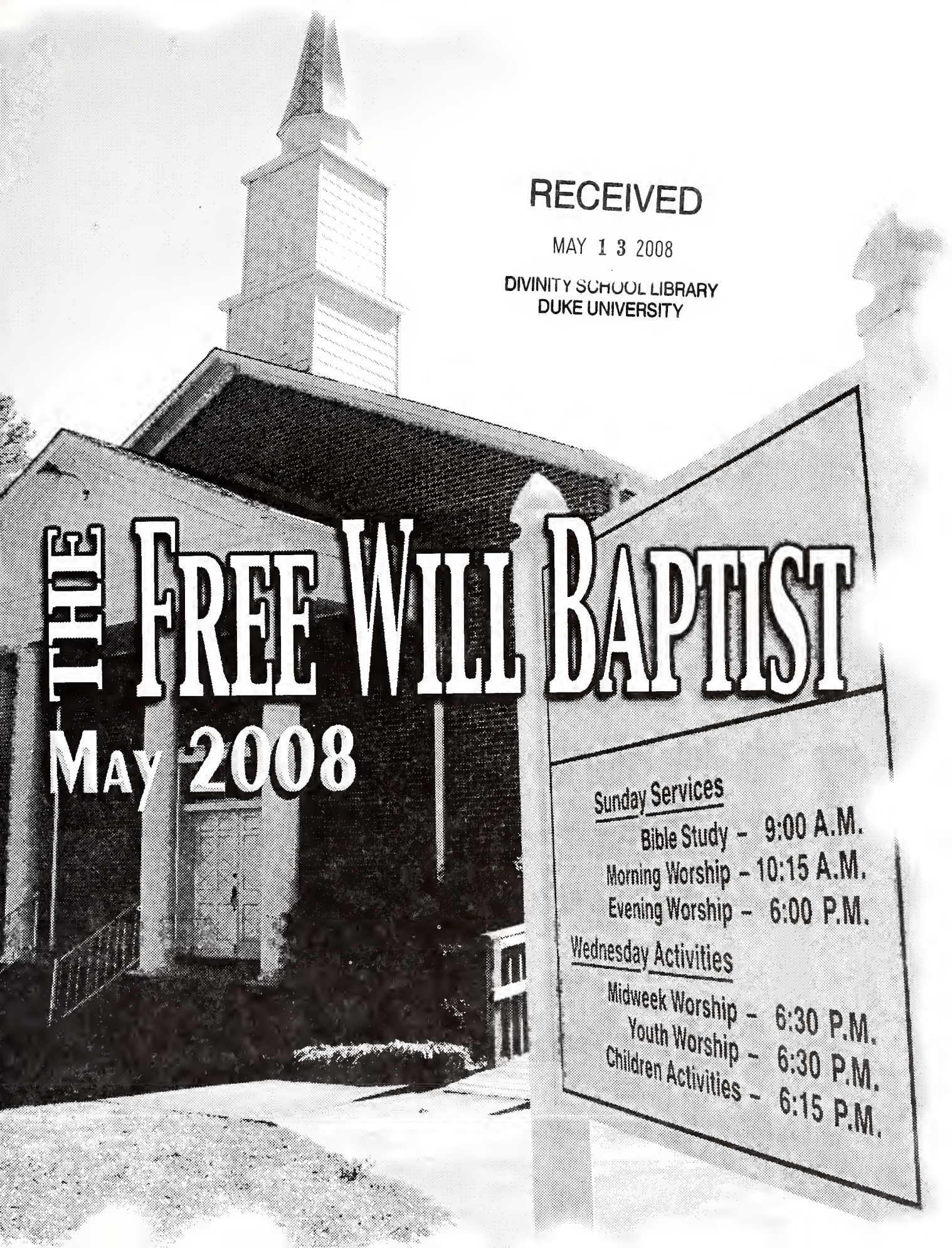

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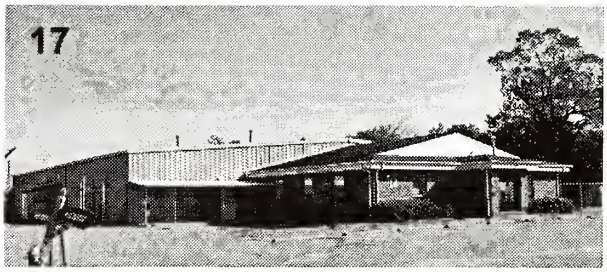

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POWER VERSE

Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST

MONTHLY PLANNER

May 2008

CHILDREN'S HOME MONTH

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

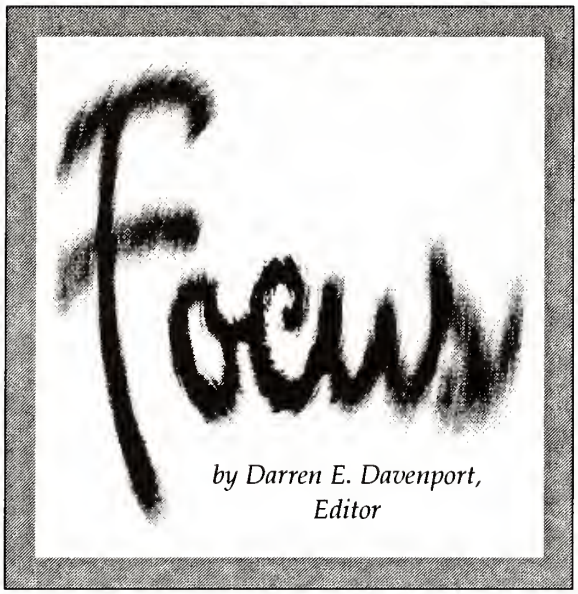
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER	2	3
4 7th Sunday of Easter	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 PENTECOST MOTHER'S DAY	12	13	14	15	16	17 ARMED FORCES DAY
18 Trinity Sunday	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 2nd Sunday of Pentecost	26 MEMORIAL DAY	27	28	29	30	31

COMING SOON:

NOTE:

Color(s) for Pentecost: Red or Red on White.
Red, the color of fire, represents the Holy Spirit.

Sunday School Curriculum Reminder: A new quarter of literature begins the first Sunday of June. If you need to make additions/changes to your order, contact the FWB Press by phone at (800) 849-3927 ext. 3 or by e-mail at <faye@fwbpress.com>.



The Power of the Tongue

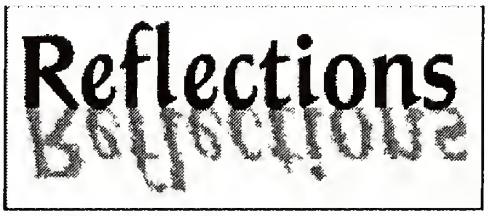
How often do you tell your spouse, your children, your parents, or close friends that you love them? Once a day? Once a week? Once a month? Do you say "I love you" so often that it's as though they've become empty words? I feel guilty of this at times. I try, however, to put thought behind my words, my feelings, and my actions and do things that show just how much I do truly love the people of which I speak.

I am currently reading the book of James. It seems no matter how many times I read this powerful book, it becomes a conviction and a reminder of how powerful and destructive the tongue—and my tongue, in particular—can be! It's amazing that a few cruel words thrown at a child by a parent or classmate can scar that child forever. "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me" is a big lie. They can cut you to the core! I challenge you to read and re-read the book of James. While you're reading, allow yourself to think about times when you should have remained silent, but instead said things you later wished you could take back. Let the Scripture nurture and mold you into a better you. That's just a part of what growing in Christ is all about.

I welcome your comments, criticisms, and/or suggestions. You may e-mail me at <editor@fwbpress.com>.

Needed: A Transforming Change

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer



For several months we have heard the word "change" used many times and with about six months to go before the November election we will hear it used many more times. In reality, changes occur in all generations and periods of time. Our own nation has undergone various changes in technology, political leadership, education, medicine, and in some respects in views of spirituality and styles and methods of worship. The phrase, "a changing landscape," is obvious on almost a daily basis as much of America is being restructured—not only the landscape, but the lifestyle and more liberal views relative to Christian faith, biblical truth, and morality.

Christian faith is under attack. It is a spiritual battle, "not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12). The only way to overcome is to put on the whole armor of God as Paul prescribes in verses 13–18. This warfare, as we know, dates back to the Garden of Eden when man submitted to the temptations of Satan. It will continue until Christ returns for His people and all things become new.

The defining difference between fleshly (ungodly) living and the fruits of the Spirit is cited by Paul in Galatians 5:17–26. If you have not read it lately, please do so. Also read 2 Timothy 3:1–5 in which Paul describes the perilous times that are to come, a time of apostasy, or falling away.

We do indeed need a transforming change throughout the land. Politics and politicians cannot bring it to pass. Neither can liberal theologians or self-styled advocates of change that is void of righteousness and ignores the laws of God. This transformation must begin with the people of God: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Christians must weigh carefully the choices before us, remembering that "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34).

A Biblical View of Christian Ministry

by Dr. Michael Pelt, Professor Emeritus of Religion, Mount Olive College

The Board of Directors of the Foundation for Christian Ministries has requested that I write an article that will more fully explain the scope and meaning of "Christian Ministry" for those persons who experience a call to Christian vocation.

To do this will require, first of all, some exploration of the meaning of Christian ministry in the context of the New Testament. Jesus Himself uses two words in His teachings that characterize His view of ministry. One of these is the word "to send" (apostellein), which describes His own ministry as one who is sent by the Father. In the course of His ministry He calls the Twelve and later sends them on a mission that is an extension of His own mission of proclaiming the message of the Kingdom of God and doing the works of God. In Luke's Gospel He sends out the Seventy with similar instructions.

The second word is "to serve" (diakonein), which describes His own role as the Servant of God and the model of service to others. He reminded James and John, who had asked to be given places of authority in His Kingdom, that greatness in the ministry is to be seen in the willingness to be the servant of all, for "...the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:35–45 NRSV). He demonstrated this teaching on the night of His betrayal when He washed the feet of His disciples (the task of a slave in a household) and the next day He went to the cross as the suffering Servant of God.

In His post-resurrection appearances Jesus gave to His apostles the commission to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations. According to the book of Acts, their mission began in Jerusalem after the Holy Spirit endowed them on the day of Pentecost. The preaching of the word by Peter resulted in the gathering of believers into the church at Jerusalem. The Twelve functioned as leaders of this first congregation and later they recognized the need for assistants who would take care of the needs of certain widows in the church. The writer of Acts may have thought of the Seven as the first deacons though he does not use that word to describe them. They perform a necessary service (diakonia) so that the Twelve can give themselves to the ministry of the word. Later on we find that in addition to the apostles, elders are said to have provided leadership in the church at Jerusalem though nothing is said about when or how they were chosen. Their role is similar to that of elders in the Jewish synagogues. In these early years the church recognized the need for some persons who will exercise special functions in the life of the church, including worship, discipline, preaching, teaching, and caring for the needy. Since the apostles apparently were going beyond Jerusalem to carry the gospel, as was Peter (Acts 9:32–10:48), the elders would assume leadership roles in the mother church.

Afterwards Paul, as one who had seen the risen Lord, would join the list of apostles. He began his ministry at Damascus and later would travel widely in the eastern Mediterranean. As the founder of churches he and Barnabas would ordain elders to preside over these churches and provide instruction in the faith. Later Paul would visit some of these churches or write to them in order to answer their questions and to nurture them in matters of faith and conduct. In his letters he makes clear that all believers are gifted by the Spirit for service for the common good (read 1 Corinthians 12). In that sense every believer is a minister, for as members of the church we are not mere observers but participants in the life and mission of the church and every member contributes to the body of Christ, which is a living organism. First among those gifted persons are those who are ministers of the word—apostles, prophets, and teachers (v. 28). Without them the church could not exist, for the church is nourished by the apostolic word, preached, expounded, and applied by those capable of doing these tasks. In another passage Paul provides a similar list of those gifted by Christ—apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, whose gifts are intended to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ until we all come to the unity of the faith and to full maturity in Christ (see Ephesians 4:11–13).

In the Pastoral Epistles there is a greater emphasis on church order and the selection of those who will exercise leadership in the churches. In 1 Timothy 3, the qualifications of a bishop (overseer) and of deacons are given, though nothing is said about their ordination. In Titus 1:5–9 the terms elder and bishop are apparently two words referring to the same officer in the church. In a later generation the term bishop was elevated to a higher order of ministry.

Christian Ministry in the Original Free Will Baptist Church

A study of church history reveals that Christian ministry has been variously interpreted in different contexts. Even among Protestants there are different perspectives on this subject. Baptists generally recognize only two orders of ordained ministry in the church—pastors and deacons. In our denomination it is necessary for pastors to be ordained and in order to be ordained they should have to meet qualifications that are suited to that office. In the last half-century or more the educational requirements for ordination have not been increased and in some cases these limited requirements have been compromised, despite the wide open doors to higher education available today as compared to earlier times. What we do to encourage better and more advanced preparation for those who seek to become pastors will determine the quality of life in our churches in the future. Think of what is required to enter other professions that we like to believe are not as important as the work of a pastor. All across the spectrum of denominations in America there is a growing recognition that those who assume the office of pastor need the best possible preparation for such a noble and yet challenging work. Our denomination cannot afford to neglect the advancement of education for those who answer the call to the pastoral ministry. In addition, those who aspire to become chaplains in the military, in hospitals, and in prison ministry must have both a college degree and a seminary degree and be ordained by their respective denominations. For the chaplaincy this includes both male and female clergy.

As important as the ordained ministry is to our denomination, we do not think of ministry in the church as confined to those who are ordained or set apart for the pastoral ministry or the chaplaincy. As indicated above, we hold that every believer, endowed by the Spirit, is gifted to perform some ministry in the life and work of the church. This is related to our belief in the priesthood of all believers in that we are priests to one another and therefore strive to serve one another and to be the presence of Christ to one another by the grace that is given to us. Our ministry or service (diakonia) is our way of living out our faith in the total life and mission of the church.

Some of those who understand that their lives belong to Christ, who calls them to a life of service, will desire to prepare themselves for special kinds of ministry for which God has gifted them. Thus, some will want to provide a ministry to children and youth, others will want to acquire the necessary skills to be ministers of music, other will seek the knowledge and training required for ministers of education or a combination of these. These may be employed full time by a local church but in many cases these persons may be considered as bi-vocational ministers, whose employment in other vocations, such as teachers, social workers, business employees, or even housewives is complemented by a special ministry in the local church.

Then, there are those whose commitment to Christ and His church leads to a life of service in a vocation or calling that is church related but does not require ordination even though it may require special preparation. Such is the case with persons who are employed by one of the Ministries of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. We have ten such Ministries, and the Convention itself, that employ persons who meet certain qualifications. Most of these employees see their work as a Christian calling, a ministry or service that requires dedication and even sacrifice in order to meet the demands placed upon them. But they gladly do their work each day, knowing that in serving others they are serving Christ. There are many persons who are employed in certain of our denominational ministries that see their work as a divine calling and whose lives are daily testimonies to the Spirit's presence in their lives.

These denominational ministries need both directors and employees who are well equipped for the tasks they are expected to perform. While they can learn much from experience on the job, they often need knowledge and skills that can best be obtained through formal education as preparation for their work. Some of them will need advanced degrees, especially those who would serve as teachers and administrators in our college. We need to encourage more of our young adults to prepare themselves for service in our denomination. This includes both men and women, for both males and females are created in the image of God; they are redeemed by the grace of God in Christ; and they are endowed by the Spirit with gifts that are to be used in the service of God.

Sources:

George Arthur Buttrick, ed., *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1962.

J. J. Von Allmen, ed., *A Companion to the Bible*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1958.

EMOTIONAL FIRST AID

by Edward E. Moody, Jr.

And likewise, a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. (Luke 10:32)

When I read the story of the Good Samaritan I feel sorry for the priest and the Levite who met that wounded man on the road that day. Think about it. They were on a dangerous road and they saw a man with injuries from which he would probably never recover. They weren't physicians. There was nothing they could do for him, or so they thought. They probably reasoned, "If we try to help him we will fail and probably endanger ourselves." Perhaps they whispered a prayer for the man as they rushed away.

You've been there. A co-worker suddenly loses a child, a friend has pancreatic cancer, a distant cousin's family is disintegrating. Perhaps you have even known people who've been abused or depressed to the point that they were suicidal. You feel sorry for the people involved but you have no idea of anything you can do to help. You aren't a counselor or a psychologist. And if you aren't careful you are afraid you could endanger yourself.

But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him (Luke 10:33).

Pause

Perhaps we can learn a great deal from the Good Samaritan about how to help those around us when they need emotional first aid. The Good Samaritan paused that day from his own concerns and looked upon the man on the road to Jericho with compassion. Maybe he thought about how he might feel if he were wounded and stranded on a dangerous road. As we encounter hurting people it is important for us to think about how we would feel if we were experiencing the problems they are encountering. How would we feel if we had pancreatic cancer or hurt so bad we'd considered "ending it all?" Pausing allows us to get into a position to help them.

And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him (Luke 10:34).

Go

Deep inside the Good Samaritan knew he needed to do something. Notice that he addressed specific needs of the wounded man. He bound his wounds, poured in oil and wine and gave him a ride to the inn. In short, he took care of him for a brief period. If you feel compassion for someone and feel like you should be helping in some way—you should go and help. Look for specific tasks you can do to help. For example, in the wake of a sudden death you might shine the shoes of family members to take care of a task or offer to pick up dry cleaning before the funeral. For a family in crisis that has small children you might take care of those children to give them some time to iron out their differences. You can't make these kinds of problems disappear but you can help. If everyone carries a little of the burden it will get much lighter. Go and find a specific task you can complete to help.

And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee (Luke 10:35).

Find Help

The Good Samaritan got the wounded man to someone who could help him. In a way, the inn was the closest thing they had to a hospital. It was a place where the wounded man could rest and recuperate. Sometimes we may not help people because we do not know how to help them. Fortunately there is a myriad of professionals who are available to help. When you don't know what to do, find someone who does. Often the first step for many emotional problems is to get a person to a physician. Pastors can provide biblical instruction. At other times, people will need the help of a professional counselor or a psychologist. You can find a listing at of Christian professionals online at <www.FirstAidForEmotionalHurts.com> under the heading "Christian Counselors." Remember what Jesus said to the lawyer that day at the end of this story?

Go, and do thou likewise (Luke 10:37b).

Whatever problems the people you encounter might have we have a responsibility to provide emotional first aid. Pause and consider how you would feel if you had the difficulty they experienced. Then go and look for a specific burden you can bear. For serious problems, find help. In doing so you'll be fulfilling Jesus' command to go and do likewise.

Edward E. Moody, Jr. is a pastor and professor of counselor education. Randall House Publications has recently published his book "First Aid for Emotional Hurts: Helping People Through Difficult Times." You can find more information at his website: <www.FirstAidForEmotionalHurts.com>. It is available through the Free Will Baptist Press. See the promotional ad on the back cover.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

This month is designated as Children's Home month in Free Will Baptist churches, and the Home will celebrate its 88th birthday. The children's home has provided a home for, and been a family to more than 2039 children since the doors were opened on May 23, 1920.

Our mission statement reads, *"Children and families are our most valued resource. Our home is dedicated to the ministry of returning children to a family by providing for children's physical, emotional, educational, and spiritual needs. This is accomplished in a nurturing environment with compassionate care. Since 1920, the Free Will Baptist Children's Home has ministered to children and families."* After eighty-eight years, we are still committed to our mission.

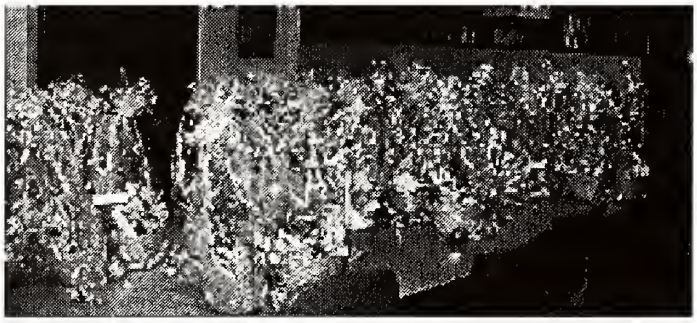
The personal gratification of our mission here may sometimes seem slow, but we press on with the task of taking care of these children in need, not only physically and mentally, but spiritually, knowing that as we plant the seeds, God will provide the harvest.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support. We are making a difference in the lives of children.

2008 CHANGE FOR CHILDREN CAMPAIGN

Winston Churchill once said "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." There is much truth in that statement. We have all seen those who have faced unfortunate circumstances, and we have all reflected on how blessed each of us are as individuals. We ask that you continue to follow the example of Christ by sharing with His children.

The 2008 Change for Children campaign should be underway in your church. The monies collected from this campaign are vital to the home, especially during the summer months when the children are home from school Please help us make this our most successful campaign ever.



On March 20, thirty Easter Baskets were unloaded at the Children's Home for the children here. For the last several years, St. Mary's Grove Woman's Auxiliary, Benson, NC has provided Easter Baskets for the Children's Home.

Thank you for taking the time to make these baskets for the children here at the home.

CAMPUS NEEDS LIST

- *Bed pillows
- Heavy-duty cookware sets (5)
- Trash Receptacles (33 gallon or larger)
- *Laundry Detergent, dish detergent, cleaning supplies, & paper products
- *Canned Foods and Dry Goods (call for details)
- Gift Cards (Wal-Mart) for perishable grocery items (call for details)
- Vacuum Cleaners (call for details)
- Kitchen Towels & Dish Cloths

The 96th Annual Session
Of the
Convention of Original Free Will Baptist

May 20–22, 2008

"Working For God Effectively"

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Rick Rusaw
Senior Minister of Lifebridge Christian Church in Longmont, Colorado. Co-Author of "The Externally-Focused Church" and "Life On Loan"

Speaking Times: Tuesday, May 20
5:30 P.M. Pastor's I.M.P.A.C.T. Banquet
7:30 P.M. Convention Worship Service

Wednesday, May 21
9:00 A.M. Worship Service
11:00 A.M. Life On Loan Workshop (*Plenary*)

Special Music by K.C.R., a dynamic ladies trio from King's Cross Roads OFWB Church

Dr. Matt Pinson
President, Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee

Delivering the Worship Sermon on Thursday, May 22, 10:30 A.M.

All activities will take place on the campus of Mount Olive College.

2008 Convention Workshops

Sunday School—*The Sunday School Ministry workshop will focus on highlights of events that have occurred over the past few months, our current plans, and plans for the future. We will also be looking forward to any suggestions from the participants as to how this ministry can move forward to assist our churches in growth through the Sunday School.*

Retirement Homes—*This presentation will offer a brief history of Retirement Homes from its beginning to the present time. The future will focus on dreams and ideas of how this ministry can and needs to expand to help those who need our help. Discussion and input from attendees will be encouraged.*

Home Missions—*Topics include church planting, Hispanic and Ethnic missions, Scouting, Disaster Relief, and more. Take a look at how you can be a part of "Touching Lives for a Lifetime."*

Foreign Missions—*A PowerPoint presentation will give an overview of the work of Foreign Missions and explain how churches and individuals can be involved in this ministry through prayer, giving, and Short-Term Team ministry.*

Children's Home—*The Children's Home Ministry workshop will give you an opportunity to meet our new president, tour our campus through pictures, learn the history of the Home, learn current programs and events, and meet the children we serve.*

Cragmont—*Summer Camp, Get-away weekends, spiritual life retreats, conferences, or just a few days to relax. Find it all at our retreat center in the mountains. Learn more about the wonderful opportunities that await you at "The People Place."*

FWB Press—*Director Cliff Gray will present a brief history of the FWB Press and a description of the products produced. A discussion of the challenges of producing a quality Sunday School Curriculum will include the ongoing need for good writers. The $125,00 Capital Campaign will also be reviewed.*

Mount Olive College—*The workshop will be built around a discussion of mission, vision, and reality for MOC. An overview of recent developments and a peek at what lies ahead will be presented. A sense of the depth and breadth of programming will be provided for the workshop participants. Some insights into the impact of this ministry on student growth and achievement will be offered.*

FWB Minister's Program/Church Finance Association—*Dealing mainly with finances for the church, pastor, and members this workshop will take an informative look at the critical role money plays in both our spiritual and personal life.*

Life on Loan—*Life on Loan Kit: How to Use It in Your Church. This workshop will introduce church leaders to each component of the Life on Loan Kit, explaining their design and suggesting ways to use these materials in an all-church experience to effectively help the church become outwardly focused, serving its community as faithful servants of our loving God and thus gaining the right to be heard in its community when it speaks of the salvation of Jesus Christ.*

Youth Commission—*Working closely with the Woman's Auxiliary, League, and Youth Convention, this new organization promises exciting and innovative improvements in ministry to the next generation.*

Carolina Bible Institute and Seminary—*This workshop will emphasize the importance of the Word of God in every aspect of life—personal, family, business, evangelism, and church. Then, we will demonstrate our methods for teaching the God's Word in all of these areas. Lastly, we will show how our students are taught the application of what we teach about the Word of God.*

NC Foundation for Christian Ministries—*The financial support you provide for your church, the denominational ministries, or your favorite charity often stops when your life is over. This workshop will focus on how to provide these institutions with perpetual financial support beyond your lifetime.*

Camp Vandemere—*This workshop will provide a brief history of Camp Vandemere, a ministry of the Eastern Conference of Original Free Will Baptists. An overview of the facility as well as summer camp schedules and special annual events will be presented.*

The 96th Annual Session of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

May 20–22, 2008

Working For God Effectively—John 6:27

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

5:30 P.M. Pastor's I.M.P.A.C.T. Banquet—Murphy Center
7:30 P.M. Convention Worship Service—Kornegay Arena
Special Music by K.C.R.
Evening Message by Pastor Rick Rusaw,
Sr. Minister of LifeBridge Christian Church, Longmont, Colorado

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

8:00 A.M. Registration Begins—Kornegay Arena
9:00 A.M. Morning Worship Service . . . . . .Speaker, Pastor Rick Rusaw
10:00 A.M. Opening Session
The Convention Is Called to Order. . . . . .The Reverend Al Warrick, Secretary
Scripture and Prayer. . . . . .Licensed Minister
Welcome to Mount Olive College. . . . . .Mrs. Jean Ackiss
President's Message . . . . . .The Reverend Charles Renfrow
Partial Report of the Credentials Committee . . . .The Reverend Ashley Trogdon
Report of the Executive Committee . . . . . .Secretary Warrick
Report of the Convention Treasurer . . . . . .The Reverend Kevin Jackson
First Reading of Constitutional Changes. . . . . .Secretary Warrick
Report of the Nominating Committee . . . . . The Reverend Ray Wells
Instructions for the Day

10:45 A.M. Break—Visit Your Ministry Displays and the OFWB Bookstore

11:00 A.M. Life on Loan Workshop with Author Rick Rusaw
(This is a plenary session with everyone remaining in Kornegay Arena)

12:00 NOON Second Reading of Constitutional Changes . . . .Secretary Warrick
Recognition of Special Guests . . . . . President Renfrow

12:15 P.M. Lunch—Murphy Center
The President's Luncheon will be held in the Hennessee Room

1:10–2:00 P.M. Workshop Session Two in Raper Hall
(You may attend the workshop of your choice)
2:10–3:00 P.M. Workshop Session Three in Raper Hall
(You may attend the workshop of your choice)

We remind you that the Final Session of the 2008 Convention will convene tomorrow morning at 9:00 in the Southern Bank Auditorium in Raper Hall. Following Workshop Session Four, we will return to Kornegay Arena for the balance of the Convention. Shuttle service will be provided for your convenience.

5:45 P.M. Sunday School Banquet in Murphy Center
Speaker—Dr. Matt Pinson, President, FWB Bible College, Nashville, TN

7:30 P.M. Annual Mission Rally in Kornegay Arena
Directed by Foreign Missions Board
Speaker—Bishop Lavaughn Hughes, Pastor
Tabernacle of Praise, Waldorf, Maryland

Thursday, May 22, 2008

8:30 A.M. Registration Continues in Kornegay Arena
9:00 A.M. Final Session begins in Raper Hall, in the Southern Bank Auditorium

Scripture and Prayer. . . . . .Licensed Minister
Announcements. . . . . President Renfrow
Final Reading of Constitutional Changes . . . . . .Secretary Warrick
Instructions for the Day

9:20–10:10 A.M. Workshop Session Four in Raper Hall

10:30 A.M. Morning Worship—Kornegay Arena
Speaker—Dr. Matt Pinson, President
Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, TN

11:15 A.M. Break—Visit Your Ministry Displays and the OFWB Bookstore

11:30 A.M. The Business of the Convention . . . . . President Charles Renfrow
Adoption of Constitutional Changes
Adoption of Nominating Committee Report
Adoption of Ministry Director's Reports
Report of the Resolutions Committee
Final Report of the Credentials Committee
100th Anniversary Celebration Start-Up . . . . . .Mrs. Kitty Barnes, Chairwoman
Report of the Memorial Committee

12:30 P.M. The Convention is Adjourned

This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the President and Executive Committee

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2008–2012
Working for God Effectively—John 6:27

2008 Working for God With Enthusiasm—1 Corinthians 3:9

2009 Working for God With Earnestness—Matthew 9:37

2010 Working for God With Expectation—John 6:29

2011 Working for God With Endurance—Galatians 6:9

2012 Working for God With Enjoyment—1 Timothy 5:18

Cragmont 2008 schedule

Ministerial Association of OFWB
June 2–4, 2008
John Hill
312 Pineview Street
Lucama, NC 27851
(252) 239-1958

Day Spring Conference
June 4–7, 2008
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Christian Cadet Conference
June 16–21, 2008
Wes Boy
789 Riverbend Road
Goldsboro, NC 27530
(919) 736-9436

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA/AFC)
June 23–28, 2008
Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-7850

Cragmont Youth Conference
June 29–July 3, 2008
Angela Mattox
4711 Edgewood Dr.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 637-5918

Bed, Breakfast, & Blessing
July 3–7, 2008
Cragmont Assembly
1233 North Fork Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(877) 669-7677

General Youth II Conference
July 7–12, 2008
John Robert Harris/Brad Williamson
PO Box 1141
Kinston, NC 28503
(252) 522-4505

General Youth I Conference
July 14–19, 2008
Bryant Hines
2407 Wild Turkey Road
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 633-2683

Young People's Bible Conference
July 21–25, 2008
Chuck Owens
1071 Gurley Dairy Road
Pikeville, NC 27863
(919) 734-3320

August Women's Aux. Conference
July 27–August 1, 2008
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Pee Dee Youth Conference
August 4–7, 2008
Bryant Hines
2407 Wild Turkey Road
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 633-2683

September Women's Mini Conference
September 19–21, 2008
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

THE IMPORTANCE OF CHILDREN

Piedras Negras, Mexico

by Everardo Martinez Hernandez

One day my daughter asked me about divorce, because during her daily devotion she reads her Bible and the people asked Jesus about 'Divorce.' She told me that during His conversation some children tried to see the Lord, and asked me why the disciples were mad with the children for disturbing their conversation. I only told her that she did not need to think about adult's matters, and I continued with my job. But my daughter wanted to know more so she asked her classmates. One of them said that when her parents talked they often excluded her from serious conversations and that bothered her. After school my daughter told me that it is so hard when people tell you that you are an important person, but in important matters you are left out.

The next Sunday we had a program to talk about the church work, and we asked the children to go to their Sunday School department, so we could talk without disturbance. My daughter came to me and said, "Don't forget the children are a part of the church also." I remembered my last conversations with my daughter and I told the church the words of my daughter and the petition that she made to me. One of the members said, "Give them a worship service on Sunday, where children direct the service with the help of their teacher." We set aside the last Sunday of each month for a children's service. The children were happy and some of them said that they can preach, some can invite other children.

The children started to work on their program and invited more children. This caused great growth in the children's department. We start with 12 children and now after three months we have an attendance of 25 children for Sunday School, all of them eager to come to the end of the month to participate in the worship service. It is impressive to see the way they have taken responsibility for these children's worship, to see their honesty, their seriousness, and sometimes their spontaneity makes the church feel blessed. Jesus had many reasons to challenge us as adults to be like children. Without a doubt the church has many important issues, but children and the stability of every family in the church are more important.

WINTER IN BULGARIA

by Tezdjan

Last year, we enjoyed a very mild winter season; the extreme low temperatures lasted only about ten days. It is very different this winter season, the first snow we received around Christmas. A bitter cold wind started blowing from the west on the second of January. The children were very happy dancing in the snow when they saw the snowflakes whirling around. In fact, many adult people too were happily enjoying the beauty of the snow. The next morning, when we woke up we found that snow and ice were covering the roads and roofs. The heavy ice and snow loads may cause the roofs collapse, for that reason all attics must be constructed out of strong concrete in Bulgaria.

After four days extreme cold and snow storms, the authorities declared "the state of emergency" in the Dobrich region where we are living. Many tourists were trapped in the mountains because of the blocked roads. The Military worked hard clearing roads with heavy equipment. Balchik was

isolated from Dobrich and Varna, the two nearest cities to us. A bus trip from Varna to Dobrich lasts normally about 45 minutes. A bus left Varna in the morning on the second day of the blizzard at 10:00 o'clock and arrived in Dobrich 8 hours later.

Facing natural disaster, we realize how fragile we are and how unpredictable the future is. Our faith is in the Lord and as the psalmist says: "In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety." (Psalm 4:8 ESV).

SOUTH DISTRICT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

by pastor Alvin R. Dagot

The South District Annual Conference was held last February 4–6, 2008 with the theme stressing on "Working Together for God's Kingdom" at First Free Will Baptist Church Plaridel, Aborlan, Palawan. There were 35 participants from 10 churches in the south attending the conference.

Participants were glad to see one another again still in the ministry for God's glory, though quite tired. The enormous performance of the praise and worship team drew the participants closer to God. We were also blessed by the topics shared by the speakers such as "Engaging Church Leaders in Cooperative Action," "Growing Together in the Church," "Stewarding God's Blessing." Tower Building Dynamics was done as a workshop. The participants were divided into four groups; each one given 15 straws to build the tower...their abilities and talents were manifested in building the tower. At the end everybody was convinced that doing and building the ministry should be built on a firm foundation that is in Jesus Christ.

On the last day of conference, the Holy Spirit moved in the hearts of everybody through the message of God's Word. Pastors moved forward...dedicating their life once again to the Lord followed by workers and delegates who promised to support their pastors in the ministry no matter what they might encounter along the way in serving God. Tears flooded, broken relationship mended... apologies were extended... forgiveness was released... and therefore promise to support their pastor once again in the ministry God has given them. Indeed God refreshed, strengthened, and revitalized each of us to be more faithful and zealous to God in building Christ's Kingdom.

A delicious and healthy meal was served. Each one went home encouraged... refreshed... invigorated... and refueled once again to go back to their respective areas to go for an extra mile in ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord for God's provision... and success throughout the conference. To God be the glory forever and ever. AMEN!

ANNUAL CONVENTION MISSION RALLY

Wednesday, May 21, 2008
7:30 P.M.
Kornegay Arena,
Mount Olive College

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS IS IN CHARGE.

SPEAKER:
BISHOP LAVAUGHN HUGHES

Pastor Hughes was appointed pastor of the Tabernacle of Praise in Waldorf, Md., January 16, 2000. He holds several positions in the Middle Eastern District of Original Free Will Baptist Conference, which is comprised of more than 40 churches. He is the President of the Northern District Union, which oversees seven churches located between New Jersey and Maryland. He also serves on the OFWB Ordination Council.

Pastor Hughes was consecrated to the office of Bishop in October 2006 by the Presiding Prelate of the Original Free Will Baptist Conference, Bishop L. N. Forbes and the staff of Bishops [Bishop A. C. Speakman, Bishop James Leftwidge, and Bishop J. N. Perry].

Pastor Hughes and Felecia were married on June 18, 1988 and they have 3 children, LaVaughn Jr., Alecia, and Crystal.

SPECIAL MUSIC: UNYIELDED GRACE

WINTERVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

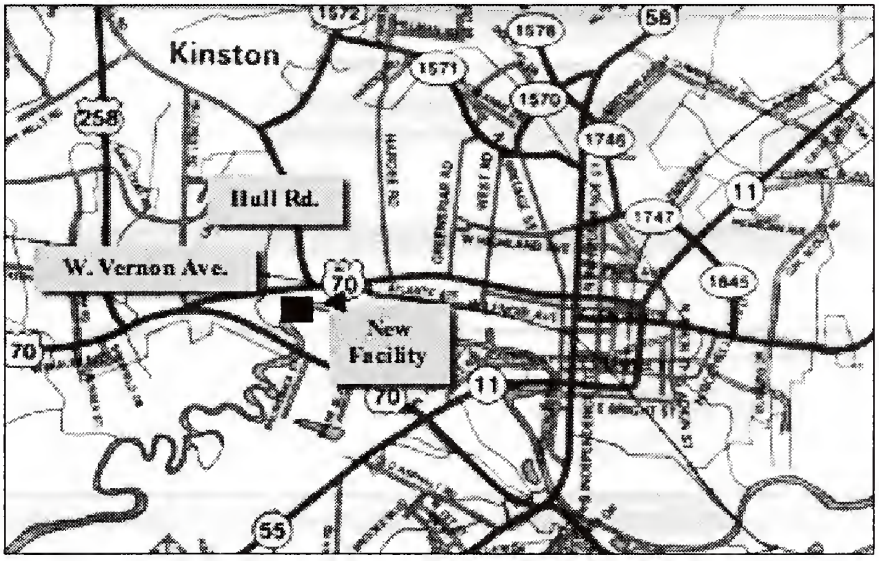
A SPECIAL POWER POINT PRESENTATION WILL BE SHOWN ON THE SURVEY TRIP MADE BY HAROLD JONES, BISHOP HUGHES, AND DR. FRANKIE BAGGETT TO LIBERIA IN DECEMBER 2007.

SPECIAL OFFERING: Your special offering at this Mission Rally is vital for the continued growth of your missions program. Begin to pray NOW and ask God to reveal to you what your contribution should be this year. Thank you in advance for your generous response. I hope all of you can attend the Rally; but if you cannot, you can mail your special offering to: Board of Foreign Missions, P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. You will still receive credit for the Rally offering.

REMEMBER: You must earmark your check for Foreign Missions or place it in a special Foreign Missions envelope. These will be sent to every pastor and supplied at the Rally.

WE HAVE MOVED TO OUR NEW LOCATION

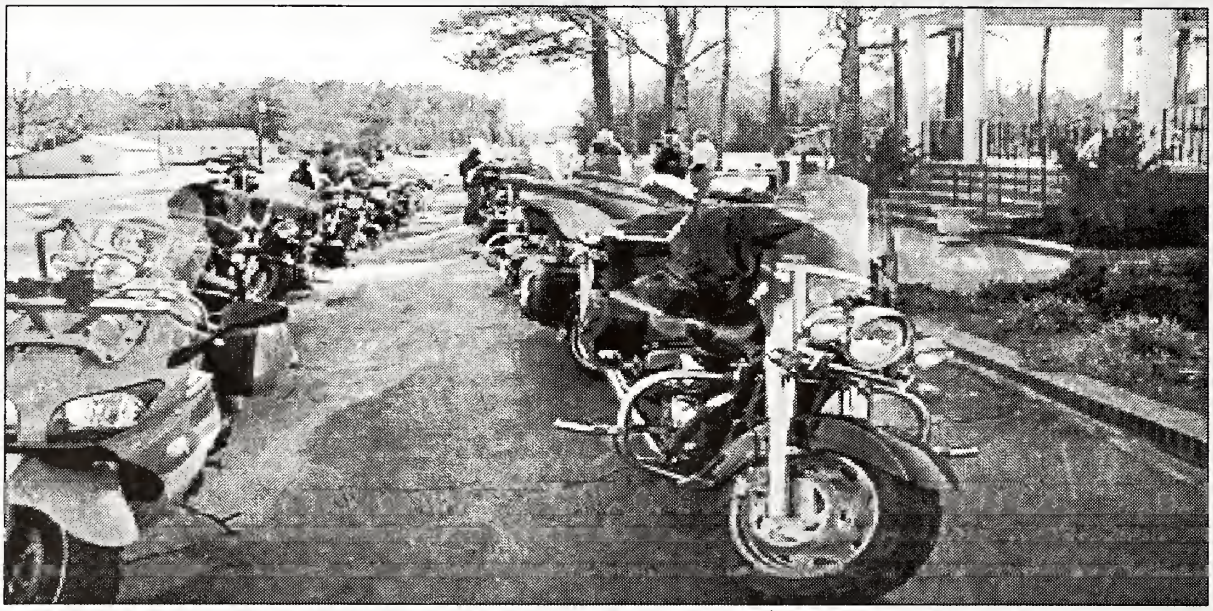
On Tuesday, December 11, 2007, the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism, in a special called meeting, voted to purchase a facility at 2600 W. Vernon Avenue, Kinston, North Carolina. This is the new location for The Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Center. This 28,000 square foot facility will give us the space needed. (This will also be the location for the Eastern Conference District Office and Home Missions & Evangelism.)



the harvest connection

To learn more about our endeavors, please call Laura Monroe at (252) 526-9908 or email <assistant@ofwbhomemissions.org>.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING...



RIDE GROUP CHARTERED

Sunday, January 5, 2008

More than 50 bikers from across eastern North Carolina gathered at the Wintergreen Original Free Will Baptist Church of Cove City, North Carolina, on Sunday afternoon January 5, 2008, to celebrate the CHARTERING of The Wintergreen Ride Group. This is our first chartered motorcyclist group—HISTORY IN THE MAKING!

Among the Christian Biker groups attending the ceremony were: The Knights of the The Light—Wilmington, NC; Crystal Coast Messengers—Morehead City, NC; North Carolina Lighthouse Riders—Greenville, NC; The Light Keepers—Jackson, NC; and Calvary Riders of Holly Ridge, NC. There were riders from six Original Free Will Baptist churches; Juniper Chapel—Vanceboro, NC; Smyrna—Blounts Creek, NC; Core Creek—Cove City, NC; Core Point Chapel—Blounts Creek, NC; Black Jack—Greenville, NC; and Wintergreen—Cove City, NC.

The Rev. Neal Cox, pastor of Wintergreen Church, opened the ceremony with prayer, followed by the singing of "Amazing Grace." Mrs. Linda Webber accompanied the group on the piano. The CHARGE and CHARTER was presented by Dr. Timothy Webber, Coordinator of the Biker/Prison Ministry of Original Free Will Baptists. Charter members for the Wintergreen Ride Group are Gregg Pappas, Paul Anderson, and Mark Beach. Following the ceremony, the entire group went on a ride, returning to the church for an ice cream social. The Eastern District representative of the Christian Motorcycle Association (CMA) shared and closed the ceremony with prayer.

The Original Free Will Baptist Biker/Prison Ministry has a strong outreach emphasis. This ministry of Home Missions and Evangelism takes us into youth detention centers, prisons, and to motorcycle events where the Good News can be offered. The laypersons of our churches who have a desire to participate in this rewarding evangelistic effort should contact us at (252) 526-9908 or email <harvestconnection@embarqmail.com> or write 2600 W. Vernon Ave., Kinston, NC 28504.

Dr. James Matthew Pinson, President of the Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee

MEMORANDUM TO ALL MINISTERS, SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS, PEOPLE IN CHURCH LEADERSHIP ROLES, AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN CHURCH GROWTH

Greetings on behalf of the OFWB Sunday School Board! The Annual Convention is upon us once again and we need to set aside a block of time to gather together for the Annual Sunday School Leadership Banquet. The Banquet will be held on Wednesday night, May 21, 2008 at 5:45 P.M. in the main Dining Room in Murphy Center. We will have plenty of room. We will have ample time to get to the Mission Rally, which will convene at 7:30 P.M. The cost of the meal will be $6 per person, which is the regular cost of an evening meal at the college. The cost of the meal is payable before, at the Convention, or at the Banquet. You will be given meal tickets designating that you have paid in advance and are to be seated with the Sunday School Ministry. In order to have a fairly accurate count of people, it would be desirable to send your reservation ahead of time. You can pay later, but please try to let me know that you are coming. If you are not able to get a meal ticket, you can pay as you go through the serving line.

Our speaker for the Banquet will be Dr. James Matthew Pinson, President of the Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Pinson is a dedicated Christian and Free Will Baptist and a strong speaker and author who has written much concerning FWB beliefs and other topics. He will be speaking on the theme, "Working for God With Enthusiasm." Come and make him feel welcomed.

We welcome our Ministers, Sunday School Superintendents, Associate Ministers, Youth Ministers/Directors, Licensed Ministers, and other persons who might be assuming a leadership role in the near future. Please pass this information to folks in your churches. To make your reservations, complete the form on the bottom of this letter, detach it, and return it to Mary Dudley by May 16, 2008. Walk-ins are very welcome.

Registration fees may be sent to:

Mary Dudley
OFWB Sunday School Ministry
PO Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513

We also ask that checks be made payable to: **OFWB Sunday School Board**. We solicit your prayers and concerns for the work of the Sunday School Board and thank you for all your support during the past years.

Yours in Christ,
Mary Dudley

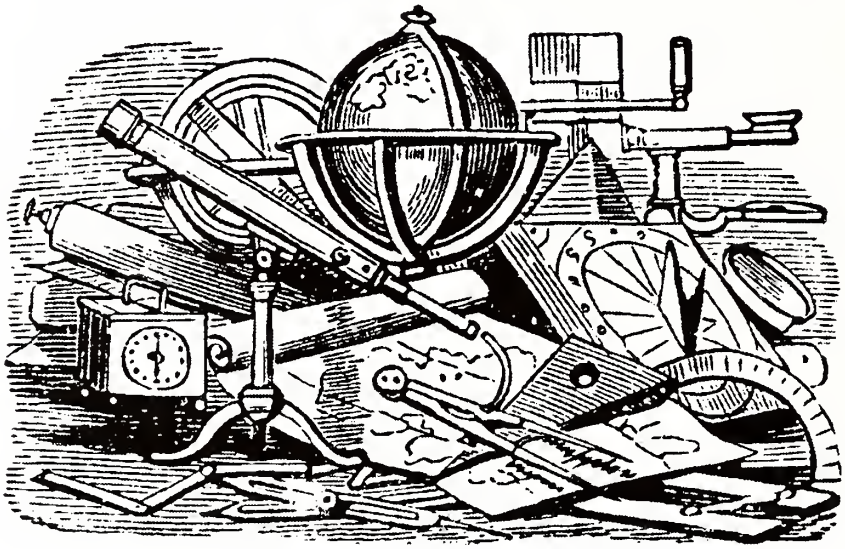
NAME: _____

CHURCH: _____

NUMBER ATIENDING THE BANQUET: _____

MONEY ENCLOSED: _____

Announcing



OPENING OF THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION RESOURCE LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

SPONSORED BY

THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

You are invited to come and view the different types of resources available for assistance in the Christian Education programs in our churches. Take time out for a conversation with the Director of the Sunday School Ministry concerning your needs.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Campus Tours
High school students and college transfers are welcome to visit the Mount Olive College campus during the springtime! The campus is beautiful at this time of year and there are many athletic events scheduled, so contact us at (800) 653-0854 or via email at <admissions@moc.edu> to arrange a campus tour.

Fall 2008 will be here soon, so all high school seniors and college transfers interested in applying to MOC can access our free online application at <www.moc.edu>. To get your admissions file started, have your official transcript and SAT scores sent to us at MOC Admissions, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365.

One night a week programs starting soon in your neighborhood

Mount Olive Evening College: (800) NEW GOAL or <asullivan@moc.edu>

Heritage Plus (HP) begins 5/19/08 at 6 P.M.
Management Information Systems (MIS) begins 5/20/08 at 6 P.M.
Management and Organizational Development (MOD) begins 5/29/08 at 6 P.M.

Human Resources Elective Classes at Johnston Community College (3 sch/5 weeks per class)
Corporate Training and Development: Wednesdays, 6–10 P.M. 5/21/08 to 6/18/08
Advance Human Resources Seminar: Wednesdays, 6–10 P.M. 6/25/08 to 7/23/08
Compensation Management: Wednesdays, 6–10 P.M. 7/30/08 to 8/27/08

Mount Olive College at New Bern: (800) NEW GOAL or <vpurnell@moc.edu>
MOD begins 5/12/08, 6–10 P.M.
HCM begins 5/22/08, 6–10 P.M.
MRM begins 5/29/08, 6–10 P.M.

Mount Olive College at RTP: (800) NEW GOAL or <rspaid@moc.edu>
Early Childhood Development (ECE) begins 5/1/08, 6–10 P.M.
HCM begins 5/28/08, 6–10 P.M.

Mount Olive College at Washington: (800) NEW GOAL or <eduff@moc.edu>
HP begins 5/7/08, 6–10 P.M.
Criminal Justice/Criminology (CJC) begins 5/22/08, 6–10 P.M.
MRM begins 11/11/08

Mount Olive College at Wilmington: (800) NEW GOAL or <mdavenport@moc.edu>
CJC begins 5/22/08, 6–10 P.M.
ECE begins 5/27/08, 6–10 P.M.

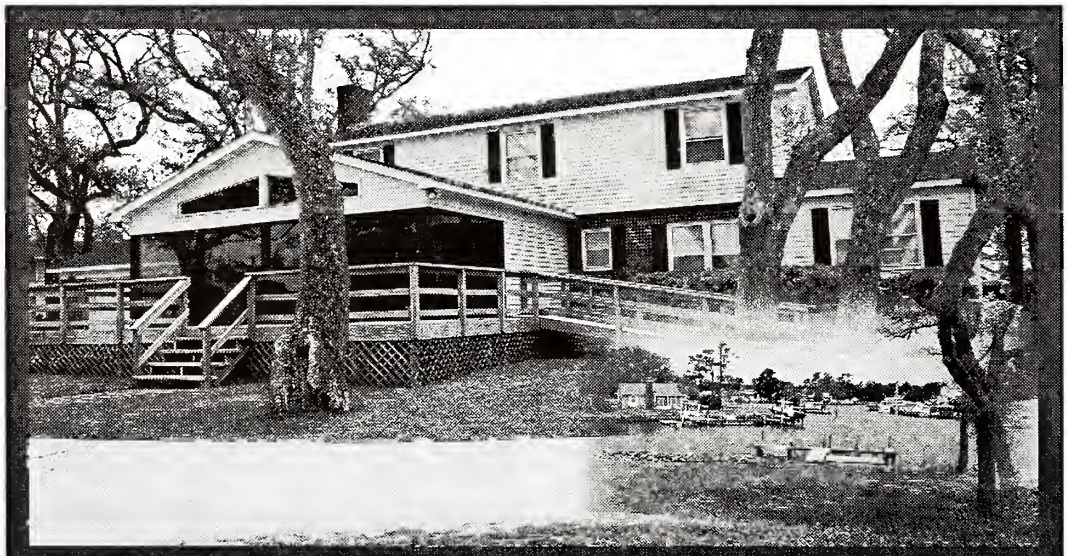
THE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH ...OFFERED DURING SUMMER C AT MOC

Dr. Alan Lamm, chairman of the Department of History and Social Studies at Mount Olive College, will teach REL 321 The Free Will Baptist Church during summer session C at MOC. The online class will focus on the history of the Original Free Will Baptist Church starting in England and tracing the story to the present day.

"We will examine the major characters, movements, doctrines, successes and struggles, the people in the denomination faced," stated Lamm.

According to Lamm, the class is required for most Free Will Baptist ministerial students, but it will also appeal to others in the church and beyond who want to learn more about Free Will Baptists and American religious history.

Summer Online C begins July 14 and ends August 17. The online class format is perfect for those who want to learn more about the denomination but who are unable to drive to the MOC campus. The class is limited to 25 students. For more information, contact Dr. Lamm at (919) 658-7779 or email <alamm@moc.edu>.



Mount Olive College Pelletier Creek House • 4704 San Juan Circle • Morehead City, NC

Looking for a Family Vacation Destination?

Available: Mount Olive College Pelletier Creek House
5 miles from Atlantic Beach
Access to Bogue Sound

Features: Deep water boat dock, conference room, deck, sleeps 14 adults and several children, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, den, cable TV & VCR, quiet neighborhood

For more information, including weekly and weekend rates, contact Margaret Wells at Mount Olive College at 919-658-7743 or 1-800-653-0854 Ext. 1281 or email mwells@moc.edu.

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET HOSTED AT MOC

Ms. Hope Williams, president of North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities and keynote speaker at the Endowed Scholarship Luncheon.

Kat Cahoon and Buck McCoy.

"I give to Mount Olive College because I love watching students reach their potential and become good citizens in our state and nation," stated Mae Ellen Warwick of Newton Grove who attended the annual Scholarship Banquet at MOC on Friday, March 14. "I could not make any better investment than investing in Mount Olive College and the students it serves."

The College's Annual Scholarship Banquet gives student scholarship recipients an opportunity to meet the benefactors who have generously helped support their educational goals. It is also a time for the students to pause and say, "thank you."

At Mount Olive College, over 580 students receive a variety of scholarships to help cover the cost of tuition and books. In fact, during the 2007/2008 academic year, MOC provides more than $3 million of institutional aid to students.

Justin Kennedy, a junior biology major from Faison, stated, "The scholarship support I have received has given me a chance to better myself and my life that otherwise I would not have had. I am very grateful."

Handy Mart Scholarship recipient Abby Watson of Sanford remarked, "Because I received this wonderful support from Handy Mart, I have been able to focus on my studies and not worry about how to pay for college. I will be eternally grateful for this opportunity." Watson is double majoring in human resources management and business management while minoring in psychology.

Scholarship supporters like Dan and Betty Urton of Raleigh, who attended the appreciation luncheon, feel it is important to give back. "An endowed scholarship program is a way of telling students that we want to make a difference in their lives. At Mount Olive College we know our gifts are making a difference!"

Dr. A. Hope Williams, president of the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, was the keynote speaker at the event. She addressed the donors saying, "You understand. You know what it is like to experience the joy of helping other. If not, you could find other uses for your funds. You recognize the importance and the value of education. If not, you have many other options for making contributions. And you believe in the life-changing difference a college education can make in the future of an individual. If not, you have not been to Mount Olive College before. Because when you are at Mount Olive College...you can see it, you can feel it, you can experience...the difference Mount Olive makes in the lives of the students in this room and across this state."

Sarah Finch, a senior fine arts major, spoke on behalf of the students in

MOC Singers performing at the Endowed Scholarship Luncheon.

attendance, "I could have gone anywhere I wanted to, except that the atmosphere of a small, friendly community is what drew me to the lush, serene campus of Mount Olive College. I think that attending an institution that supports higher education, encourages values, and transforms lives is a priceless experience, and that is why I chose MOC! From all of the scholarship recipient, the residents, and the student body at MOC, we cannot express how much your commitment means to our families and to us. We are indebted to you for taking the time to care and make a difference. By investing in Mount Olive College, you have indeed spread hope and joined in the incredible mission of this college. **You have transformed our lives forever** and we are extremely grateful!"

Entertainment at the event was provided by the Mount Olive College Singers. The menu was prepared by Pioneer College Catering.

Donnie E. Lassister, an MOC parent, donor and friend, provided the closing remarks with a challenge to the donors, "Open your minds and your wallets. Don't give until it hurts, give until it feels good."

JEANES ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED AT MOC

Dr. Opey Jeanes and wife Jenny Jeanes

The Opey Dew and Jenny J. Jeanes Family Endowed Scholarship Fund was recently established at Mount Olive College.

According to Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support at MOC, the endowment was originally established in Dr. Jeanes' name as a surprise for his 70th birthday. "But" as Ackiss stated, "when Dr. Jeanes found out about the gesture, he wanted to include Jenny's name on the fund and make it a family endowment."

"Education has always been an important part of the Jeanes family and this fund will help provide educational opportunities for young people in the years ahead," Dr. Jeanes noted.

Once the corpus of the fund reaches $10,000, it will provide scholarships for qualified recipients who are rising seniors seeking degrees in chemistry. In addition, recipients must demonstrate evidence of good character, a commitment to the Christian faith and to attaining an education. They must also be hard-working, self-reliant, self-motivated, and diligent, having academic promise.

Dr. Jeanes is a native of Wilson County. He has been active in the advancement of science and education through higher education for more than 48 years. Prior to joining Mount Olive College as vice president and dean in 1979, he served John Tyler Community College in Chester, Virginia and Chowan College in Murfreesboro, North Carolina. Currently he serves as vice president for Special Service and directs the Mount Olive College program at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro.

"My service at Mount Olive College is more than a profession, but a calling to serve the church through the advancement of Christian higher education," he stated.

Dr. Jeanes is married to the former Jenny James from Creedmoor, North Carolina. Jenny and Opey met when they both worked at Chowan College, Opey as professor of chemistry and Jenny as secretary to the president of the college. The couple has been married for 45 years and they have three sons: O. Dale who lives with his wife, Terry, and their daughter, Kristen, in Clemmons, North Carolina; James W. who lives with his wife, Sharon, in Mount Olive; and Paul A. who lives in Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. Jeanes is a member of the Mount Olive Original Free Will Baptist Church. Mrs. Jeanes is a member of the First Baptist Church of Mount Olive where she has served on various committees and as a deacon. She presently volunteers as Christian education director/Sunday School director, and serves on other ministry teams at First Baptist.

MRM PROGRAM AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE HITS 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In 1998 Mount Olive College embarked on a mission to provide a program in religious studies for its nontraditional student body. The program was named Modular Religion Major or MRM for short. Since its inception, the goal of the program has been to integrate solid theological scholarship with spiritual formation and make it accessible for working adults.

In its tenth year, Mount Olive College currently offers the MRM at its locations in Mount Olive, New Bern, and Washington. The program concentrates on four key areas: biblical studies, religious history, theological studies, and applied theology. There are 17 courses divided over three semesters. The courses are offered one night each week.

"The Monday night classes are what drew me to the program," said Charles Lindquist of Asheboro. "It is not a cake walk but it is very rewarding." Lindquist's advice to interested students, "Do not apply if you are not prepared to work and be challenged because that it just what they do here."

According to Dr. David Hines, chairman of the Department of Religion, many of the students in the program are interested in some aspect of ministry and plan to attend seminary or divinity school after graduating from MOC. Participants in the program have included attorneys, pharmacists, school administrators, youth ministers, pastors, retired military, and some are simply curious about Christianity.

"Mount Olive College not only gave me an excellent theological education, but it also gave me the confidence and desire to continue to learn," stated Phillip Hogan, MOC graduate and a senior at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, Texas. Hogan will graduate with his Master of Divinity degree in May. "It is because of my experience at Mount Olive that I was both prepared and motivated for graduate level education," Hogan continued.

"Not only have I learned academically, but the spiritual formation component of the MRM program has tremendously enhanced my spiritual journey," stated current MRM student Teresa Bayless of Raleigh. "I am a better Christian and member of the larger community having studied at Mount Olive. The professors are excellent! They both work with you and provide you with the tools necessary to enhance you and your studies."

"The strength of the MRM program," states Hines, "is that our faculty care enough for the students to demand high academic standards. I am not aware of another program in our region which matches up with what we are providing undergraduates. We now have MRM graduates in quality graduate programs such as Duke Divinity School, Campbell Divinity School, Union Theological Seminary, Asbury Theological Seminary, and others. What pleases me even more than academic success is the quality of service our graduates are providing the churches in our region."

The next MRM Program start date for New Bern is May 29 and Washington's MRM start date is November 11. For information, contact Dr. Hines, at <dhines@moc.edu> or call (800) 653-0854.

HAPPY TAYLOR GETS RECOGNIZED BY BB TEAM

Coach Bill Clingan with Happy Taylor

At a recent basketball game on the MOC campus, a special presentation was made to a faithful fan and supporter of Trojan athletics. Happy Taylor was recognized by the Trojan Basketball Team along with their head coach Bill Clingan.

He explained that, "Happy has been very special to Mount Olive College students throughout the years and has been a big supporter of all our student athletes." Clingan went on to say, "It takes a lot of time and energy to attend as many sporting events as Happy has and she is truly a great Trojan fan!"

On the eve of her retirement from being the MOC Bookstore Manager, Taylor commented on her gift. "What a surprise and I feel so honored," she stated. "Coach Clingan, Joey, and all the guys are special people on this campus. Watching MOC basketball has been a joy over the years and I will be back."

Happy Taylor's plaque was a book-shaped clock and it read,

Presented to Happy Taylor
In Appreciation of Outstanding
Dedication and Support
MOC Men's Basketball

February 2008

Best Wishes in Retirement

SISTER ACT

Pictured L–R: Loren, Kerin, and younger sister Lizzy.

With small class sizes and quality attention from staff and faculty, Mount Olive College has earned the reputation of Transforming Lives. And for three sisters from Archer Lodge, NC the private liberal arts college in eastern North Carolina is doing just that.

Twins Loren and Kerin, along with younger sister Elizabeth, or Lizzy as they call her, are affectionately known as the Knapp sisters. All three sisters are pursuing degrees within the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies at MOC.

"We love being here together," stated Loren, a senior recreational therapy major. "We learn from each other's experiences." Her 22 year-old twin, Kerin, is a sophomore therapeutic recreation major. Lizzy is also studying recreation with a concentration in leisure service management. Having the same major means the sisters often share very similar schedules.

"It is nice because we each have a study partner," commented Lizzy. "And we like to compete to see who gets the better grade."

All three girls have a passion for working with children and all three volunteer weekly at Reins From Above, a therapeutic horseback riding center for children and adults who are disabled.

"I enjoy helping people and making them smile," stated Loren. "As a recreational therapist, I will be helping people improve their quality of life and become more independent through recreational activities that they enjoy."

After graduation, Kerin would like to work at a local hospital as a certified recreational therapist and child life service specialist. Lizzy would like to operate a summer camp and recreational facility for children 6–12.

The small campus environment at Mount Olive College has given the Knapp sisters the opportunity to be involved and to spread their wings. Loren described her experience at MOC, "I have been able to gain hands-on experience through class projects and presentations. My professors are preparing me and sending me out in the community to get involved and interact with others already working in my chosen field. It has been a great experience."

In addition to their studies, the sisters are active with a number of campus and community organizations including the Recreation Majors Club, the Commuter's Club, the Undergraduate Alumni Association and Campus Crusade for Christ. The threesome has also started their own puppet ministry called Puppet Pals, where they minister to local senior centers, nursing homes, and churches through puppetry. They are three-time gold winners at the One-Way Street Annual Puppet Festival and Competitions.

"My sisters and I have always been close," smiled Kerin. "We share a special bond. Sharing our college experiences together is great and bringing us closer together because of the many experiences and challenges we face. We are here to encourage and lift each other up along the way. It is also a lot of fun."

The Knapp sisters are the daughters of Curtis and Roberta Knapp. They have another sister, Becky Knapp, who is 20.

The bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees in recreation/leisure studies at Mount Olive College are designed to provide students with a broad knowledge in the field of recreation and leisure services, as well as specific skills in a professional work area. The curriculum includes courses emphasizing philosophy, history, effective use of leisure, program planning and leadership, skill development, organization and administration, management, field experiences, outdoor education, and related coursework tailored to meet a student's professional goals in the recreation, parks, and leisure service profession.

Students can specialize in either leisure service management, recreational therapy, sport management, exercise science or physical education. If you would like more information, please contact Mount Olive College at (800) 658-2502 or visit <www.moc.edu>.

WINTER GLITZ A SHINING SUCCESS

From a Student Perspective

Following the Mount Olive College Winter Glitz in February 2008, there have been continual responses and glowing comments from everyone involved, including the student volunteers.

"The event was awesome!" enthused Whitney Gough, a junior leisure service management major. "The decorations made me feel like I was in New York. Everything was planed out really nice, the event went by smooth, and it seemed like everyone enjoyed their night." Gough is a Trojan Athlete on the Cross Country and Track Team. She will benefit directly from the Winter Glitz Auction proceeds since she receives financial aid from the College in the form of a MOC Grant.

"I enjoyed talking with the people at my table," explained Kat Cahoon. "They not only help me with my scholarships but they are very special people! I enjoyed sharing stories with them and hearing theirs also! Good times!" A junior recreation major with a minor in religion, Cahoon participates in the MOC Softball Team. As a FWB student from Sound Side Free Will Baptist Church, she receives a FWB scholarship along with a Leaders scholarship from MOC.

"The Winter Glitz was a wonderful night of fun entertainment and social enjoyment." Chris Stroud remarked, "I am very grateful for each individual who contributed to the scholarship funds that will benefit students such as myself. The best gift you can give is the opportunity for someone else to reach a higher education. One day I plan to return the good deed." An aspiring freshman, Stroud is majoring in agriscience education with the help of a MOC Grant and a FWB Scholarship. He is a member of Piney Grove OFWB Church in Albertson, NC. Chris is a dedicated individual, who is already giving back to the campus community through serving the Collegiate FFA as Secretary. He is also a Residential Advisor for Grantham Hall and participates as a Mount Olive College Ambassador.

"Winter Glitz was an amazing event," stated Christina Brock, another freshman, FWB student now attending Mount Olive College. She is studying math and science education and she cheers with the MOC cheerleaders at Trojan athletic events. She went on to talk about her impressions of the Winter Glitz evening, "I enjoyed watching the guests during the silent bids. They would keep increasing the amount of the bid if they really wanted that item. It was amazing to see how much some people spent on certain things. I also enjoyed meeting alumni of Mount Olive College. This made me feel good inside to know that other people were willing to help raise money to go toward scholarships for the students at MOC." Brock personally understands the impact of how important it is to give because she receives the FWB Grant from MOC to assist in paying for her college education. Christina is a member of the Stoney Creek OFWB Church.

A senior, business administration major, Erin Elder appreciates getting the Handy Mart Scholarship and Merit Scholarship from donors each year. In her mind, the Winter Glitz was, "a night of extraordinary proportions which demonstrated the magnitude of care that the alumni and others have for the upcoming students and their desire to help other students experience the same principles and fun that they once enjoyed themselves."

Delicious food, entertainment at its best, and fabulous features including an alumni silent auction, this will be an event that you won't want to miss. Make plans to attend next year and be a part of supporting MOC student scholarships.

LOIS G. BRITT AGRIBUSINESS CENTER, MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE HOSTS SOUTHEASTERN REGION FFA IN-SERVICE FOR AG TEACHERS

Over 60 high school agricultural educators from across southeastern NC came together recently at Mount Olive College to discuss issues and opportunities for their agricultural curriculums in local public schools. The FFA regional officer team was also present to provide assistance. Mount Olive's Collegiate FFA helped serve as hosts.

"Teachers representing every high school in southeastern NC come together to look for ways to improve and strengthen the programs that they deliver to students each day in the classroom," stated Benjie Forrest, Eastern Region Agricultural Education coordinator, who led the conference. "These teachers are innovators and look for ways to inspire and promote leadership in their students every day," continued Forrest.

"It was our pleasure to host this event," stated Dr. Phil Hamilton, director of the Lois G. Agribusiness Center at Mount Olive College as he presented Forrest an embroidered attaché case from the Agribusiness Center. "Benjie has been instrumental in the recruitment of agricultural science education students. We are working hard to provide students who want to become agricultural education teachers with opportunities to accomplish their goals," continued Hamilton.

The Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center offers two 4-year degrees. The agribusiness curriculum readies students for careers in agribusiness and promotes entrepreneurship. The agricultural science education curriculum trains students to become agricultural teachers in the North Carolina school system. "The teacher shortage has impacted all arenas of education including agricultural education" reflects Forrest, "and the program in place at Mount Olive College is providing another venue for students to become Ag teachers and begin to offset this shortage."

COMING EVENTS

Mount Olive College Graduation Set for May 10

Mount Olive College will graduate approximately 350 students at its 53rd Spring Commencement on Saturday, May 10, 2008. Graduation exercises are scheduled for the afternoon in the George and Annie Dail Kornegay Arena. Preceding graduation, Mount Olive College will hold its traditional worship service in the Southern Bank Auditorium. Admission by ticket only.

Lunch and Learn Series—Fertilizing for the Lawn—May 15th

Sponsored by the Mount Olive College Agribusiness Center, the Lunch and Learn Series entitled "Growing to Serve You" will continue on May 15, 2008. Jessica Hyatt, horticulture extension agent, will speak in the Hennessee Room of the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center from 12:00 NOON to 12:45 PM. The topic of her presentation is "Fertilizing your Lawn." If you have questions about lawn care and fertilization or other horticultural questions, please feel free to attend any of the Lunch and Learn series held on the campus of Mount Olive College. For details or information about upcoming presentations, contact Dr. Sandy Maddox at the Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center, Mount Olive College at (919) 659-7682.

North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

The Eighty-First Annual Session
May 8, 2008

Hosted by the Albemarle District Woman's Auxiliary
Rodgers Chapel and Lois K. Murphy Regional Center Mount Olive College

Program

Theme: "How Do I Get There From Here?"
Theme Song: "They That Wait Upon The Lord"

Scripture:

But they that wait upon the LORD *shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint* (Isaiah 40:31).

8:15 A.M. Registration—The Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
Fellowship Time
Transportation will be provided to Rodgers Chapel

8:45 A.M. Auxiliary Praise and Worship Choir
Rodgers Chapel

9:00 A.M. **Opening Session** Rodgers Chapel

How Do I Get There From Here in my DEVOTION
I will wait upon the Lord; I shall renew my strength…

How Do I Get There From Here in MISSIONS
…I shall mount up with wings as eagles…

How Do I Get There From Here in my SERVICE
…I shall run and not be weary…walk and not faint.

1:00 P.M. Lunch

For Hotel Accommodations in Mount Olive, you may contact:
The Sleep Inn (919) 658-1002 or The Southern Belle (919) 658-9404.

MORNING STAR CONFERENCE, MARCH 28–30, 2008

by Rita James

"I, Jesus, have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star" (Revelation 22:16).

Women from across the state gathered at Cragmont for this annual weekend of spiritual enrichment. There was a wide range of ages present from ninety-two year-old Reba Cannon of Black Jack Church to two young ladies of ages 8 and 9. Six of our seven districts were represented by the 109 in attendance. Cape Fear District had the most in attendance with 45. Twenty churches statewide were represented.

Director May Pittman officially welcomed everyone at the opening services at 8 P.M. on Friday evening. Kitty Barnes read the opening Scripture from Psalm 121 and gave the opening prayer. Phyllis McLamb led the singing for the opening service and all other services during the weekend.

May Pittman introduced this year's staff and gave a special welcome to the 9 first timers, telling them to come back next year and bring friends. She announced that each church in attendance should designate one person to pay balances in the office following the opening session. She went over housekeeping information and asked that name tags be worn during the weekend. A head count was taken by district. The group closed with a prayer and were dismissed for refreshments, rocking, unpacking, or general fellowship.

May Pittman opened Saturday morning with a devotion based on the theme verse. She said we are familiar with the use of a star at Christmas, because of the star that led the wise men. If we are in the country, we can see the many stars in a clear sky. She used a star to list five points—Faith, Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. She gave an acrostic with each: FAITH=full assurance in trusting Him; HOPE=Heaven offers people excitement (or perfect eternity); LOVE=love others vocally every day; JOY=Jesus, others, yourself; and PEACE=people everywhere are Christians eternally. These words are a basic foundation for the Christian life and are used 1,142 times in the Bible. She placed the star so the top point was Peace, showing that if all other points were fulfilled, we would top it off with a peaceful life.

At breakfast Saturday (and for all other meals), there were two groups served about 15 minutes apart. At 9:30, the group reassembled in the chapel. Vickie Wade, deputy clerk in the estate division for Lenoir County, introduced herself as the morning's speaker (Eastern District). She described herself as a wife, grandma, and child of the King. She told the group her topic for the weekend was "Are You Where God Wants You To Be?"

She gave examples of how God gets our attention—through failures, successes, disappointments, and even tragedies. She told of a songwriter in the 1930s who lost his wife during the birth of a son, and how the son died shortly after. He was devastated. Later, he wrote the beautiful songs, "Precious Lord, Lead Me Home" and "Peace in the Valley," turning the tragedy into praise for God that became songs that have inspired and comforted many over the years.

In the second session, Mrs. Wade said God speaks to us with a purpose and that we are to hear and DO. She said in her own life that she was trying to play the piano and work with the choir as God directed her to do, even though she felt unworthy. She referenced Paul who suffered many trials but his faith remained strong. He continued to spread the Gospel no matter the cost to him. She says that sometimes it is not just the circumstances we are placed in, but the response to those conditions that is the key to faith. We must have the Holy Spirit in us to guide us and recognize God's voice just as sheep know the voice of the Shepherd. We must not just hear and recognize the voice, we must be willing to OBEY the voice. God loves us and wants our love

in return. He has so many blessings for us when we obey and follow Him. She asked what were we holding back? We must each ask ourselves if we are truly where God wants us to be.

The traditional group photo was taken on Saturday before lunch, and they were delivered to those who purchased a copy on Sunday morning.

Saturday after lunch was free time and the group gathered back at 8:00 and opened with singing. May Pittman gave a few more announcements and thanked everyone on staff and all who came. She said there would be a silent auction for "John's Art"—the wooden pieces on display carved from Cragmont trees with proceeds to Cragmont.

The Sunday School lesson was led by Nancy Hardee with Scripture from 2 Chronicles 34, reminding us that God is faithful to His word but acts with forgiveness to those who give Him honor as the young King Josiah did. Broken relationships can be mended but unfaithfulness will be punished. Leaders MUST be committed to serving God—church leaders, family leaders, leaders of countries—all should seek God's blessing in their leadership.

The Cragmont store was opened for a bit after the group dismissed, and many ladies visited the lodge to watch the UNC Tarheels defeat the Louisville Cardinals in the NCAA Elite Eight. Many thanks to Union Grove of Pikeville for the big screen TV provided for the lodge! (and to Connie Barton of Powhatan for providing the popcorn!)

The offering collected on Sunday morning for Cragmont was reported to be $1,231. Another $720 was raised from the auction of the carvings.

The Rev. John Williams (a "fixture" as the Director of Cragmont) brought the worship message on Sunday morning. He referenced Matthew 28, saying that we need to have faith without fear and treat each other as brothers and sisters, as our tender and compassionate Savior did.

Morning Star 2008 ended after breakfast on Sunday as everyone headed home. The retreat always begins the Friday after Easter, so make plans now to come and be a part of the blessing on April 17–19, 2009.

EASTERN DISTRICT AUXILIARY CONVENTION

The Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention met for its spring meeting at White Oak Grove Church in LaGrange, NC, on Saturday, March 15, 2008. WERE YOU THERE? Was your auxiliary represented?

President Wanda Costner recognized four state officers, 10 district officers, 4 ministers present in addition to our delegates and guests for a total attendance of 77.

Study Course Chairwoman Jo Ann Parrish congratulated and recognized the auxiliaries who held study courses during the past year. She invited everyone to stay for a study course on Prayer by Happy Taylor immediately following today's lunch.

The secretary read the minutes from the previous meeting and called the roll with 35 churches represented by letter, 15 of which were present.

Happy Taylor presented A-1 awards to Deep Run and Folkstone auxiliaries.

The following ministries were represented and reported: Sunday School, Retirement Homes, Home Missions and Evangelism, Mount Olive College, FWB Press, and Children's Home.

Joan Little, State WA President, advised the State Convention will be hosted by the Albemarle District and held at Mount Olive College on Thursday, May 8, 2008. The Auxiliary State Project for this year is the Raper Building at MOC. Joan also advised the Youth Convention will be held at MOC in May.

May Pittman gave the Cragmont Conference report and advised there are four upcoming opportunities for our women to be at Cragmont.

The Life Membership Award was presented by Teresa Grubbs to Lottie Caroon. Teresa outlined the many things Lottie had participated in or been involved with over the years either individually or with her husband. Congratulations Lottie! You are a most deserving recipient.

Our speaker for the convention was Linda Herring of White Oak Grove Church. Linda asked us to be hearers of the word and to be a doer of what you hear today. She reminded us that God is in control; He has a plan and He will use whoever He needs to accomplish His plan; Jesus asked us to be different; you are in this world but not of the world. The world is changing; don't get bogged down because you are going to another world.

Hope. Who do you put your hope in? Jesus is the source of all of our hope in this changing life. Linda challenged us to think of a person in our group who needed hope and write their name down somewhere. She gave us 3 suggestions for when our hope meter is low:

1) Claim a promise from the Bible
a. Hebrews 13:5 "...I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." Jesus will go with you through it, trust in the Lord with all your hope....
2) Discipline yourself to study God's Word.
a. John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled..."
3) Trust in your high priest
a. Hebrews 6:19 Jesus entered the presence behind the veil. Jesus is ahead of us. He is the forerunner. He is our high priest.

Of the two thieves hanging on the cross with Jesus, one chose hope. Hebrews 13:8...Jesus said that he is the same today, tomorrow, and forever. He will do what He says in the word.

What will you do with the hope? Picture a creek bed with two wood ducks gliding along and that's what hope looks like. [I still have a mental picture of Linda gliding down the creek "aisle" as a wood duck!] The world sees your hope (the way the duck looks on top of the water as he glides along) and how you handle a storm. God's job is how you are gliding on top of the water. How you are floating or paddling your feet under the water is between you and God. Live every day looking for someone you can share your hope with.

Imagine the positive effect we will have on the world or the churches we go back to with what we learned today?

We were all presented beautiful daffodils, compliments of the State of North Carolina roadside, to take home and do nothing with. They were told not to put them in water! Without water they will wither just as we will without hope. We were to watch them daily to see what happens over time without water (hope).

We had a wonderful meeting with the highest number of auxiliaries reporting by letter, but it could have been better if you or your auxiliary had been represented! Please make your plans to attend our next meeting in September. Notices will be mailed out in August.

These auxiliaries were represented by letter: Beulaville, British Chapel, Cabin, Christian Chapel, Core Creek, Core Point, Daly's Chapel, Macedonia, Oak Grove, Pearsall Chapel, Rock of Zion, Russell Creek, Sandy Plain, Sneads Ferry, Spring Hope, Welcome Home, Whaley's Chapel, and White Hill.

These auxiliaries were present and received a spiritual blessing: Deep Run, Dublin Grove, Folkstone, Friendship, Juniper Chapel, Kinston First, Northeast, Oriental, Pilgrim's Home, Sarecta, Smith's New Home, Warden's Grove, Westside, White Oak Grove, and Wintergreen.

Respectfully submitted,
Wanda Costner, President
Vickie Wade, Recording Secretary

CAPE FEAR AUXILIARY CONVENTION

On April 5, 2008, the Cape Fear Auxiliary Convention was held at Oak Grove Church, (3311 Newton Grove Highway) Newton Grove, NC. The theme of the convention was "A place that you truly belong." Scripture was from John 14:2. Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many rooms, if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you" (NIV).

Mrs. Jane Parker, Cape Fear President, gave a warm welcome to all who came out on a rainy day. She also reminded us of how warm and inviting the facilities of Oak Grove were. The delegates, officers, guests, and ministers were recognized. All then joined with the singing of "A Child of the King." Ms. Wanda Johnson prayed our opening prayer. Mrs. Ginger Hill had our devotion and Mrs. Willa Dean Daughtry of Oak Grove Auxiliary gave the pertinent announcements. Mrs. Ann Narron of Powhatan Church gave a response.

The business session was opened by Mrs. Parker. Mrs. Betty Strickland read the minutes of last convention and executive meeting. Committees were appointed and asked to meet during the break. The Dola Dudley Award was presented to Mrs. Lucille Coates, a very deserving lady. A short biographical sketch was given by Brenda Johnson of the Hopewell Church. Mr. and Mrs. Donald Coates were present and joined his mother at the front of the sanctuary. Mrs. Coates spoke and then her son spoke for a few minutes. Then Donald thanked everyone present for their prayers and thoughts during this time of his illness.

The chorus time was led by Mrs. Lynn Prescott with the Rev. Stephen Prescott accompanying on the guitar. Many new choruses were sung and enjoyed by all. The denominational ministries present shared the news of what is going on and what is in the planning stage. The offering was received and Mrs. Nell Butler, Mrs. Jean McCullen, Mrs. Carolyn Underwood, and Charlotte Hudson were ushers.

After the break, the churches that had attained A-1 were requested to come forward and share their charts. Lee's Chapel, Shady Grove, Robert's Grove, Powhatan, and Hopewell president's shared their charts. The committees gave their reports and business session was closed and the hymn "Jesus Loves Me" was sung.

Mrs. Ginger Hill sang a solo, with her husband, the Rev. Roger Hill accompanying her on the piano. Mr. Prescott was introduced by Mrs. Carolyn Jernigan.

Mr. Prescott delivered a soul searching message on being "God's Hallmark."

The closing song was "Near to the Heart of God." Also, a request to sing "Victory in Jesus" was honored by singing one verse.

After the message, Mr. Hill, pastor of Oak Grove, dismissed the convention and returned thanks on the food prepared for those present. All but two auxiliaries from the Cape Fear District were present at the convention. The fall convention will be at Pleasant Grove Church, (290 Red Hill Church Rd.,) Dunn, NC on October 4, 2008. All Cape Fear Auxiliaries are urged to attend and send in nominees for the Life Membership and Dola Dudley Awards to be given in 2009 to Mrs. Jane Parker.

CAMP VANDEMERE MAY 2008

Summer camping season is upon us and the Camp Directors, Camp Manager and Board of Directors are excited about the upcoming weeks of camp being planned. Spiritual focus and knowledge, along with Christian fellowship among the campers, has always been at the top of Camp Vandemere's mission in working with every camp week group. Be much in prayer for our directors, staff, and campers. If you know of any camper that would like to attend Camp Vandemere this summer, please share the below camp schedule information with them.

CAMP VANDEMERE 2008 CAMP SCHEDULE

Women's Week
June 2–5, 2008
Audrey (Stumpy) Quinn
2356 Wintergreen Road
Cove City, NC 28523
(252) 638-6406
Judy Kennedy
(910) 298-4311

Spring Hope OFWB Church Week
July 6–11, 2008
Eva Mae Clark
465 Half Moon Road
New Bern, NC 28560
(252) 637-5346
Debbie Warren
(252) 637-4560

First OFWB Church of Wilson Week
July 27–August 1, 2008
The Reverend Doug Radford
1446 Old Smithfield Road
Goldsboro, NC 27530
(919) 734-4602
Angie Toler
(252) 244-1850

Daniel's Chapel
OFWB Church Week
June 15–20, 2008
The Reverend Walt Tyndall
5473 Appie Road
Walstonburg, NC 27888
(252) 753-5005

New Bethlehem
OFWB Church Week
July 13–18, 2008
Sandy Williams
156 Williams Lane
New Bern, NC 28560
(252) 745-9840

Branch Chapel OFWB Church Week
August 3–8, 2008
The Reverend Terry Dennis
2160 Glendale Road
Kenly, NC 27542
(919) 284-6144

Lighthouse Keeper's Week
June 22–26, 2008
Cristy Ramsey
2165 Kinston Hwy.
Richlands, NC 28574
(910) 358-2103
Angie Toler
(252) 244-1850

General Youth Camp Week
July 20–25, 2008
The Reverend Wesley Taylor
P. O. Box 188
Vandemere, NC 28587
(252) 745-3171
(252) 514-3222

3RD ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Camp Vandemere will be hosting its 3rd Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, June 6, 2008 at Indian Trails Country Club in Grifton. Shotgun start will begin at 10 A.M. Format will be a 4 Man Superball Team with entry fee set at $50 per person/$200 per team. Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place teams. Mulligans and red tees will be available for purchase during the tournament. Hole sponsorships are available at $100 or Major sponsorships at $300. Application information will be sent out during the next couple of weeks. Any questions concerning the tournament can be directed to The Rev. Ashley Summerlin by calling (252) 560-8995.

As always, the Camp Manager and Board of Directors would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support of Camp Vandemere's continued ministry. For more information about the camp, please contact our manager:

The Reverend Wesley Taylor
P. O. Box 188
Vandemere, NC 28587
(252) 745-3171 Camp Office
(252) 514-3222 Cell Phone

On March 7, 2008, the Shady Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church Auxiliary presented the Rev. Harold Jones a check for $10,000 for the church building in Bulgaria. The funds were a result of challenging each family to contribute $500 between October–December of 2007 at Shady Grove Church. Three Cape Fear churches, Oak Grove OFWB, Robert's Grove OFWB, and Shady Grove OFWB sold pre-cooked hams at Thanksgiving to add to this endeavor. These auxiliaries have a deep desire to see the Bulgarian church built in the near future. The Rev. Willem Van der Plas and Lydia have given their lives to the work of our Lord in Bulgaria and other places around the world. Their desire is to see this church built. Plans have been drawn up and are before our congregations. If you know someone who has a special heart for missions, talk to them and see if they will contribute to this worthwhile project.

From left to right are: Phyllis McLamb, Judy Daughtry, Linda Jackson, the Rev. Harold Jones, Bonnie Lockamy presents the check, and Carolyn F. Jernigan.

The Rev. David Atkins standing alongside Pebbles Joyce, the winner of the giant Easter basket.

Christ Free Will Baptist Church Men's Brotherhood sponsored a drawing for a giant Easter basket. It was filled with a large variety of Easter chocolate and candies, beautifully wrapped in Easter paper with a bow. The Men's Brotherhood sold tickets for $1 each. They raised a total of $146 for the church fundraiser applied to the fellowship hall building fund. The drawing was held after worship service on Easter Sunday. Pebbles Joyce was the lucky winner of this giant Easter basket. She is pictured at left with the Rev. David Atkins. The church also has a fundraiser supper for the building fund the last Saturday of each month.

CHICKEN PASTRY EVERYWHERE!

On March 14 the Woman's Auxiliary of First Church, Wilson held a chicken pastry fundraiser. There were 535 plates of delicious pastry, string beans, sweet potatoes, hush puppies, and cake served to "eat in" and "take out" customers! The Auxiliary, led by Jamie Nichols, who was in charge of food planning, worked very hard to make sure the fundraiser was a success.

Everyone, including some men, worked together to make the event enjoyable and God truly blessed all the efforts that were put forth for the event.

Pictured L–R: Burnie Bass, Marie Joyner, and Peggy Ingram de-bone chicken for the pastry fundraiser.

WINTERVILLE FWB LADIES ENJOY CRAGMONT'S MORNING STAR RETREAT

by Judy Nobles Lewis

This year's spring Morning Star Ladies Retreat at Cragmont was held March 28–30. Debby Gray, Judy Lewis, Lorraine Hines, Sandra Jones, Gladys Avery, Leah McGlohon, Arlyn Branch, Corinia Keel, and Annie Bruce Hines boarded the van and left Winterville Free Will Baptist Church at 9:45 Friday morning headed west for Black Mountain.

We arrived at Cragmont about 4:00 and checked into our rooms. Before long, we were back in the van and headed to a local restaurant for a great seafood dinner. We arrived back at Cragmont in time for our 8:00 Friday evening service. This opening service consisted of Scripture reading, prayer, and singing, which was led by Phyllis McLamb of the Cape Fear District. Debby Gray and Gladys Avery of the Central District were the musicians for the weekend and did a beautiful job! Following the service, we headed to the dinning hall for refreshments and fellowship.

Saturday morning we began the day with a devotion given by May Pittman from the Central District using the five points of a star. She spoke about the importance of faith, hope, love, peace, and joy in our lives. Then we were off to the dining hall for a wonderful full-size breakfast.

Following breakfast, we assembled in the chapel to begin a three part Bible Study session. Our speaker was Vickie Wade from the Eastern District. Her topic was "Are You Where God Wants You to Be?" We were challenged to ask ourselves the following three questions: 1) Where is your foundation built? 2) Can you hear Him when He speaks? 3) What is the condition of your heart?

God speaks to each of us differently using methods personalized especially for us so we will hear Him. He speaks to us through the Holy Spirit, through circumstances and through His Word. She listed the following ways that God might use to get our attention: a restless spirit, others, blessings, unanswered prayer, disappointment, unusual circumstances, failure, financial loss, tragedy, sickness, and affliction. We must be still and listen for His voice. When He speaks, we must be willing to obey.

After our morning session, it was off to the dining hall for a great lunch of chicken salad, soup, and dessert. It really hit the spot following a cold and rainy morning. The afternoon was free for "resting, relaxing, rocking, fellowshipping and shopping". We chose the shopping! If it's one thing these ladies know how to do it's shop and eat!

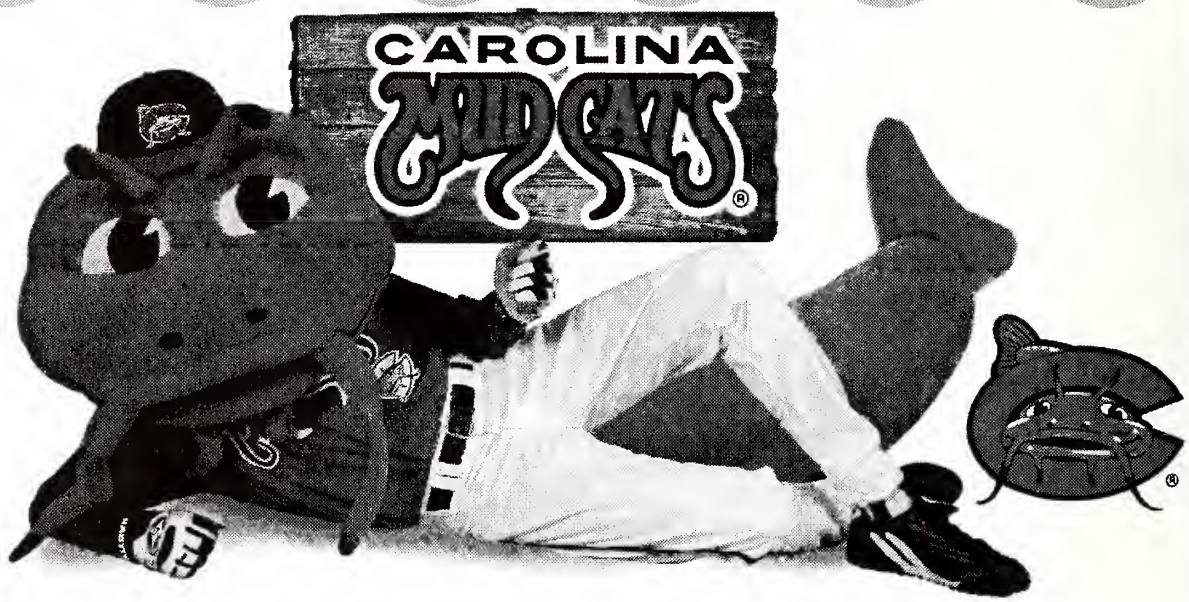
Supper was at 6:30. Ron Evans from Black Jack cooked a pig and chickens with all the typical Pitt County trimmings. You couldn't have asked for any better. Supper was followed by our evening service which was our "Sunday School" lesson. Nancy Hardee from the Pee Dee District gave our lesson based on 2 Chronicles 34 when young King Josiah brought God back into the land after having found and read God's Word.

Saturday night lots of "fun" could be heard as ladies gathered around two different televisions cheering Carolina on to a victory.

Sunday morning we gathered in the chapel for our morning worship service. Debby Gray and Judy Lewis of the Central District sang two songs prior to the message which was given by the Rev. John Williams, who is the manager of Cragmont. He spoke from Matthew 28 when Mary came to see the sepulcher and found it empty!

Following morning worship we headed to the dining hall for breakfast. Do you get the idea that these folks love to eat? And that the folks at Cragmont really know how to feed you well!

After breakfast, we packed the van and headed for Winterville. We thank the Lord for our safe trip and for a wonderful weekend of worship and fellowship. Next time you hear there is a trip planned for Cragmont, you might want to plan on being a part of it.



Please join us for the 5th Annual
Paper and Cleaning Products Drive
Friday, July 25, 2008 at 7:15 P.M.
Fireworks Night!

Paper and Cleaning products will be collected at gates to benefit
Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Middlesex, NC.
The Layman's League of Spring Branch Church has joined once again with the Carolina Mudcats to promote a day to help the Children's Home. On July 25, the Mudcats are going to have bins set up at the entrances of their stadium for people to bring paper/cleaning products for the Children's Home. This is a great opportunity for your Layman's League, Woman's Auxiliaries, and Youth groups to begin, even now, to collect paper/cleaning products and bring them to Tri-County Stadium on that day. There is a discount for tickets purchased in bulk and would make a great day of ministry and fun.
(Last year we had over 33 churches in attendance)

All Church groups registered in advance will receive:
$5 Box Seat Special (regular price—$8)
To receive this special discount, all tickets must be paid for by July 14. Discount is not available at the gate. Tickets will be mailed within 10 days prior to the game.
Paper Products will be dropped off at the stadium.

Paper and Cleaning Products Drive Questions? Call Bill Doane (252) 753-3717	**Mudcats Questions? Call Joshua Bridges (919) 269-2287**

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Please Join Us For

Homecoming 2008

Sunday, May 4, 10:45 A.M.

Morning Worship (including Praise in Song & Children's Message)
Followed by Homecoming Dinner

First OFWB Church, Plymouth, NC (US 64 West)
Bobby R. Taylor, Pastor

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place (2 Chronicles 7:14-15).

For more Information, contact Shirleyan Phelps, clerk, at (252) 793-5236 or <shirleyan32@earthlink.net>.

Howell Swamp's

Fun on the Farm Day

Saturday, May 17, 2008 from 7 A.M.–6 P.M.
at

Jones Fruit and Produce

6985 Beaman Old Creek Road
Walstonburg, NC 27888

Hot Dogs (chili and onions)—$1 • BBQ Dinner (with all the fixin's)—$6
Homemade Ice Cream, Cakes, and Cookies • Strawberries (fresh from the field)

Kiddie Rides • Face Painting • Crafts • Door Prizes • Yard Sale • Music All Day

Sponsored By Howell Swamp Woman's Auxiliary ~ All Proceeds Will Go Toward Church Building Fund.

Personal Information Changes

THE REVEREND RONEY BUNN, JR.
7655 LEONARD RD.
KENLY, NC 27542-8203

E-MAIL: RONEYBUNN@AOL.COM
PHONE: (252) 230-6818

Churches & Ministry Positions Available

THE REV. DR. L. GRADY TUCKER is available for the following services: fill-in, interim pastor (up to 5–6 weeks), and Gospel singing concerts. He may be reached by phone at (252) 633-0986 or (252) 634-7282, or by mail at 705 River Rd., New Bern, NC 28562.

FIRST CHURCH, TARBORO, NC is seeking a youth director/youth associate pastor. For more information, contact Billy Trevathan by phone at (252) 823-4931 or (252) 813-3989. THE REV. DR. L. GRADY

LAYMAN'S LEAGUE SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT

Camp Vandemere
Vandemere, NC
June 6–7, 2008

Theme: Being Salt and Light

Ye are the salt of the earth…Ye are the light of the world… (Matthew 5:13–16).

Friday, June 6	6:00 P.M.	Meal furnished by Convention of Layman's League
		Business Session
Saturday, June 7	8:00–9:00 A.M.	Breakfast ($5) and Fellowship
	9:00–9:45 A.M.	*The Salt of the Earth* by Brother Ken Akers*
	9:45–11:00 A.M.	Special Music by "The Juniper Five"
	11:00–11:45 A.M.	*The Light of the World* by Brother Tim Copeland
	11:45–12:00 P.M.	Prayer and Meditation
	12:00 P.M.	Lunch ($6)
	1:00 P.M.	Benediction

* Brother Ken Akers is the General Director of Master's Men for the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Each person planning to attend is requested to complete and return the form below by May 21, 2008.
Send form (with $12 overnight lodging fee) to: Mr. Elmer Harrell • 502 SE Third St. • Snow Hill, NC 28580.
Make checks payable to: State Layman's League.

LAYMAN'S LEAGUE SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT

Name_____ Phone_____

Address_____ City_____ State____ Zip_____

Church_____ Conference_____

❑ I plan to attend the retreat at Camp Vandemere on June 6–7.
❑ I plan to stay at Camp Vandemere on Friday night, June 6.

Display/Advertising Rates

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b/w—1/4 page vrt./hrz. • $30
b/w—1/2 page vrt./hrz. • $40
b/w—3/4 page vrt./hrz. • $50
b/w—Full page • $60
b/w—back cover • $120
color—back cover • $150

Churches & Ministry Positions • $8
(maximum of 4 lines)

Personal Information Changes • No Charge
(notice of phone, mailing address, and e-mail address changes)

These rates are for first-time runs. Additional consecutive runs are half-price (of equal or lesser size).

The printing of ads is contingent on the availability of space. We reserve the right to condense space as necessary. You will be charged only for the actual size used.

These advertising rates are for individuals, churches, and auxiliary organizations. These charges apply to any announcements, coming event listings, invitations, and registration forms. If you have any questions, contact the editor by e-mail at <editor@fwbpress.com> or by phone at (800) 849-3927 ext. 227.
There is no charge for article submissions.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE INFORMATION FOR ARTICLES AND ADVERTISING

The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) **When the 5th falls on a weekend, material is due on the Friday before.** You may submit items by any of the following methods:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>,
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
  PO Box 159
  Ayden, NC 28513.

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*PICTURES ARE NOT RETURNED UNLESS THERE IS AN APPROPRIATE SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE INCLUDED!

Submissions for *Personal Information Changes* will run for 2 months only.

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❑ *Bundle Plan (**$8.50** each)*: Lots of 12 or more copies are sent to one individual who in turn distributes these.
I would like to order _____ copies of *The Free Will Baptist*.

❑ *Every Family Plan (**$11.75** each)*: The church provides us the names and addresses of every member and we send them to each home. The church is billed quarterly.

Mail This Form With Payment To: *The Free Will Baptist*, PO Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513

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DON'T let the FEAR

of not knowing exactly what to do

hold you back

from ministering to someone.

First Aid for Emotional Hurts
Edward E. Moody, Jr. Ph.D.
ISBN: 9780892655649
Retail: $12.99
Our Special Promotional Price: $10.00

"I don't know what to say." How many times have we said those words to a friend or family member who is going through a painful or difficult time? *First Aid for Emotional Hurts* is a new book that provides the tools and knowledge needed to help others through the difficult issues in life.

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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

JUNE 2008

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THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST

MONTHLY PLANNER

June 2008

CRAGMONT ASSEMBLY MONTH

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Ministerial Association @ Cragmont (2–4)	3	4 Dayspring Conference @ Cragmont (4–7)	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 STT to Mexico (14–21)
15 Minister's Program Sunday **FATHER'S DAY**	16 Christian Cadet Conference @ Cragmont (16–21)	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Youth Frontier Conference (YFA/AFC) @ Cragmont (23–28)	24	25	26	27	28
29 Youth Conference @ Cragmont (29–July 3)	30					

NOTE:

Color(s) for the season: The basic color is green, which symbolizes growth in Christ. Red may be used on civic holidays.

COMING SOON:

July 3–7: Bed, Breakfast, & Blessing @ Cragmont
July 5–12: STT to Mexico
July 12–19: STT to Mexico
August 2–10: Camp Morelos, Mexico

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

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POWER VERSE

And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way (Mark 10:52).

Someone Has to Sell!

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

Reflections

Just imagine it! There's this company that has many products to sell. The products are good, so a method is devised to move the products—to get the public to buy and use. Select salespersons are chosen by company representatives. Top notch, high quality persons are found. When and if these chosen ones succeed they are expected and urged to find other salespersons. These newcomers are invited to meet with the "pro," or those who have become successful. Enthusiasm and zeal are most evident. Everyone is urged to get out and sell. In turn, those who do the urging and promoting, will receive great benefits (percentages, if you please) from those who sell. Now, I'm beginning to wonder, "Who's going to do the selling?" After all, someone has to sell.

At this point, let's make a comparison. As Christians we have the challenge of presenting Christ to the world. In a sense, we are salespersons. We are representing and promoting a person, God's Son, Jesus Christ. There is not charge for the spiritual benefits of receiving Him. Salvation through Him is free. He has already paid the price on Calvary's Cross. In representing Him, however, we must believe He is the best, that there is nothing to surpass His beauty, love, mercy, and grace.

When we attend His house, we are not just attending to meet some wonderful people, or to hear a sales pitch. We attend out of the necessity to be filled, to quench our spiritual thirst. When we leave the church, our obligations do not end but only begin. We are to reach out to others and share the good news that Jesus saves. There are no special sales, no discounts. All receive Him the same way. But someone has to go out in the "highways and byways." Someone has to sell. There is much more involved than the assembling. Those who have experienced His love and forgiveness are the salespersons. We are His witnesses. Remember, Jesus said, "...ye shall be witnesses unto me...unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Revised and reprinted from The Free Will Baptist, *April 15, 1981.*

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"GOODBYE...HELLO"

2008 League Convention

On March 15, 2008 at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Goldsboro we said "Goodbye" to the Convention of Free Will Baptist Leagues. The League has a long and noteworthy history within the Free Will Baptist Church. It has served our Lord and Savior with love and honor through the years. But after much prayerful consideration and a few tears the executive committee of the League Convention recommended and the League Convention delegates passed a motion to disband this organization that can trace its roots to the early 1900s. I understand in the 1970s someone wrote an article for *The Free Will Baptist* that discussed a funeral for the League. There was no funeral then and there was no funeral on Saturday, March 15. Instead, the League had a celebration! We rejoiced in our Christian heritage, we joyfully remembered the amazing influence of the League in our lives, and, as always, we acknowledged the awesome greatness of our God. This final convention followed the pattern set through the years and, as usual, was the most fun of any convention in FWB land (at least to us, Leaguers, who have attended so many times)!

Our theme for the day was "Seeking God Through the Years" with Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" which is the League Motto as the theme verse. In the past few years the convention has been made up of the "Faithful Four": Aspen Grove—Fountain; First Church—Goldsboro; Hickory Chapel—Ahoskie; and Mount Zion—Roper. They united again this year with old friends from the past and new friends from Peace FWB Church, Macclesfield.

The day was rich with treasures from the past. Dianne Riley led us in songs that spanned the years and the miles all the way to Cragmont and back again. Songs we all know well to songs known only to a few, "He Owns the Cattle on a Thousand Hills," "I've Been Redeemed," and "Do Lord." The speakers covered the years as well. The response by Lloyd Jones began our journey into our heritage. Sharlene Howell, president, took us on a brief journey into our beginnings and growth that brought memories of League Quarterlies and "parts." The morning devotion came from Heather White, who grew up participating in Sword Drill competitions and shared the importance of training a child in the path of the Lord. Other speakers included the Rev. C. H. Overman and Ms. Dianne Riley. They spoke of how the League influenced their lives and service to our Lord. They spoke of the joy and fun found in the League and the experiences of speaking, praying, singing, and playing the piano before groups that empowered them to work for God today. The refrain, "To God Be the Glory," the day's theme song, wove its way through the comments of Dianne and the hearts of Leaguers as we acknowledged that to God goes all the glory and praise for the FWB League. College student and life long Leaguer, Timothy Howell, included in his memories a beautiful tribute to Mrs. Margaret Ard, who has developed many Sword Drill Study Sheets through the years. He spoke of the lessons she had taught him over the years and the notebooks he still saved from studies. Our last speaker was the Rev. John Hill. He spoke of how from the remains of the past can come a strong new future. The outer building may be different but the frame upon which it is built does not change. Those things that the League treasured will not die but will continue in a new dwelling for our Lord. The simple message of each of these Leaguers is that the League cannot die for it will live and flourish as long as a Leaguer lives and remembers. The League will continue as long as someone a Leaguer has taught, touched or guided continues in the path of Christian service. The League will continue as long as that which we hold as important to the cause of Christ continues. So it is not "goodbye" but "hello."

And that brings us to our Sword Drill. This year we were delighted to have five first time contestants from Peace FWB Church join three experienced sword drillers. The goal of the Sword Drill to teach Christians to successfully use their Sword, the Bible, was shown by Jordan Tripp (Junior First Place); Myranda Tripp (Intermediate First Place); Ashley Drake, (Intermediate Second Place); Kelly Ellis (Intermediate Third Place); Brooke Corbett (Intermediate Fourth Place) from Peace FWB Church; Timothy Howell (Senior First Place); Sharlene Howell (Adult Second Place) from First Church Goldsboro; and Judy Moore (Adult First Place) from Aspen Grove.

Leaguers love to laugh, so our program ended with a skit by Aspen Grove that brought memories of laughter to anyone who ever attended Christian Cadet Conference at Cragmont. As we sang with hearts overflowing "Onward Christian Leaguers" and prayed (with voices that broke just a little) "...The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from the other" (Genesis 31:49), we had to agree with a teenager who, on attending a League Convention in 1948, said, "Wasn't it grand? It was one of the most inspiring meetings I have ever attended." The teenager was Leah McGlohon. Yes, it has been a grand journey and we are confident that Jesus will continue to inspire us into new avenues, adventures, and organizations that hold to the values and goals of the League, to train people to better serve the Savior. It is time to say "Hello" to the next step in Christian service.

FEAR NOT CHANGE

by Celia Hales

Change, by its very nature, can be uncomfortable in its minor aspects, and terrifying in its major ones. The fear of change is, to my mind, one of the most obvious ways that we hem ourselves in. When we hem ourselves in, we do ourselves a grave injustice, for change is the catalyst that transforms disasters into a better tomorrow.

In times of stress in my life, times where I felt stuck, one thing I did know through it all was that if I just put one foot in front of the other, things would get better—and they did. Once, I felt this way on being let go from a position that I loved because I did not have enough education. I was teaching at a women's college in Virginia, and nobody told me about the "three year rule for instructors." I learned after my three years were up that I could never have stayed because I did not have the Ph.D. in my field of English. There were plenty of tears, but ultimately I made a career change to librarianship—there is that word, "change," again—and in my mountain top of years, I now feel that that experience of being let go was one of the best things that ever happened to me. Change had wrought its magic. For one thing, the change led me to both the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc., and Mount Olive College. And all of these years later, I treasure the memory of people I met at both places.

It can now be said that fear of change is actually a lack of faith in God's providence to bring us through and out of trouble. There is no one so self-assured that doubt will never enter, but, all in all, a faith-filled outlook, with all the positive attributes that this brings, will go a very long way to setting our little world aright again.

Prayer helps, too—a great deal. When we are hemmed in, we need to go to prayer at its most elemental—an asking that we be shown the way to change that will deliver us from the bad times.

I would recommend that one temper a strong will with faith in God to guide us, gently, to the change that is needed to set everything aright again. One needs to surrender to God: "Not my will, but Thine be done." Surrender, to the strong-willed, may seem like giving up, but it is anything but. It is the most pertinent way that God can blossom in our hearts, for God will never force His way on us. We must change willingly, or not at all.

So do not be afraid of change. It is our friend. Walk gently, one foot in front of the other, into the glorious tomorrow that God promises to all of us. Though God may not take away all of our trouble, He can and will find a way to make us happy even in the midst of the worst sorrow.

MR. JAMES PHILLIPS

by Celia Hales

On a sunny day in 1950, I was just four years old, but deep in planning and carrying off my first marriage. I recall that my wedding to "Mr. James Phillips" (a stuffed rabbit dressed in a man's suit, complete with tie) took place in the morning, because light was streaming in the kitchen nook—my playroom—from the east. Little did I know that I would grow up to place great meaning in that childhood fantasy.

I had had another imaginary playmate, whom I was too young to remember later on. But Mr. James Phillips I remember well. I cajoled my mother into getting out the last year's Christmas wrap, and I chose the white tissue paper. Carefully I tore off big patches of tissue and placed it all around the floor of my playroom. I must have reasoned that weddings were the occasion for lots of white. But I wore the only dressy gown that my mother would allow—a green floor-length bridesmaid's dress—homemade—that was for a Tom Thumb wedding I had been a part of. And in the crook of my left arm, I carried my bunny bridegroom—a little man decked out in a fancy outfit. There was no minister, for my imaginary playmate and I were playing alone, having only my fantasies to entertain me. I don't recall my vows, but surely they included the word, "I do." I think it was a short ceremony.

Years later, in college, I learned that a "J. B. Phillips" had published a new translation of the New Testament. His name appears on the title page as "J. B.," but the source I read in my religion class gave his name as "James," and included the note that he had earned a doctorate. So here I had "Dr. James Phillips" rather than "Mr." though, of course, he was still a "Mr." as well. What did all this mean? I decided to investigate further. I stopped by a large bookstore and inquired about the J. B. Phillips translation. Yes, they had it, and soon I was holding a copy—a beautiful leather-bound New Testament in a sturdy case. I carefully removed the book from its case and opened it. My eyes fell on the words, "I dedicate this translation to Vera, my wife and finest critic." His wife!

Surely the words of the New Testament have been very important to me in all the years since. Did an angel hover over my pillow when I was a young child and whisper the name of "Mr. James Phillips" into my dreams? I will never know, perhaps, but the coincidence of the name of a translator of the New Testament, his dedication of it to his wife, and my imaginary playmate have been peaceful thoughts to recall in times of stress.

JUNE IS CRAGMONT MONTH

Bed, Breakfast & Blessings—July 3–7, 2008

This summer offering has become very popular for vacationing families desiring to spend time in the mountains of North Carolina. You may spend the entire time or any part of it. The cost is $25 per person/per day, which includes a night's accommodation and breakfast. Cragmont Club membership benefits may be used.

BED: Come to Cragmont for a place of rest and relaxation.

BREAKFAST: Have a hearty meal to start your day.

BLESSING: Listen to inspiring words before you begin your day's adventures.

For more information or details about this unique summer offering for vacationing families, call our toll free number, (877) 669-7677, or e-mail <Cragmont@charter.net>.

The Cragmont Club Plan

The Club was established to help maintain a healthy cash flow throughout the year. Each year the Club is responsible for bringing in approximately $30,000, much of which will arrive on a monthly schedule. While the Club will give you and your immediate family members certain benefits, it is our hope that the greatest benefit you receive is knowing that you are helping to support an important ministry of the denomination.

For $15 per month you and your immediate family may spend a weekend or the equivalent of a weekend (three nights) at Cragmont at no cost. To join the Cub send in your first $15 earmarked for Cragmont Club.

Cragmont 2008 schedule

Ministerial Association of OFWB
June 2–4, 2008
John Hill
3445 NC 111 Hwy.
Goldsboro, NC 27534
(252) 230-1845

Day Spring Conference
June 4–7, 2008
Joan Little
7063 Stantonsburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Christian Cadet Conference
June 16–21, 2008
Wes Boyd
789 Riverbend Road
Goldsboro, NC 27530
(919) 736-9436

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA/AFC)
June 23–28, 2008
Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-7850

Cragmont Youth Conference
June 29–July 3, 2008
Angela Mattox
4711 Edgewood Dr.
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 637-5918

Bed, Breakfast, & Blessing
July 3–7, 2008
Cragmont Assembly
1233 North Fork Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
(877) 669-7677

General Youth II Conference
July 7–12, 2008
John Robert Harris/Brad Williamson
PO Box 1141
Kinston, NC 28503
(252) 522-4505

General Youth I Conference
July 14–19, 2008
Bryant Hines
2030 Bear Grass Road
Robersonville, NC 27871
(252) 670-8424

Young People's Bible Conference
July 21–25, 2008
Chuck Owens
1071 Gurley Dairy Road
Pikeville, NC 27863
(919) 734-3320

August Women's Aux. Conference
July 27–August 1, 2008
Joan Little
7063 Stantonburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Pee Dee Youth Conference
August 4–7, 2008
Bryant Hines
2030 Bear Grass Road
Robersonville, NC 27871
(252) 670-8424

September Women's Mini Conference
September 19–21, 2008
Joan Little
7063 Stantonsburg Road
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

SHARING EASTER BREAD—BULGARIA

by Tezdjan

Picture 1:
Willem preparing the bread

Picture 2:
Sharing Easter Bread

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12 RSV).

The early Christians were tortured, beaten, and cruelly murdered because of their faith. They had faith in the teachings of Jesus, faith in all the claims He made about His relationship with God the Father. But above all, they believed the fact of His Resurrection from the dead, which is the essence of Christianity for everlasting life. Just because of this, the early saints and the martyrs, who followed them in later times, were able to accept the sufferings of horrible executions, glorifying God in the hour of their death through their Risen Lord.

Those believing in the Resurrection are few in our days. Surprisingly, there are even church-going Christians, who announce their doubts about the Resurrection of Christ. What shall we say about our friends and relatives among the Muslims? Most of them know that Christ is raised from the dead, yet they don't want to believe it! They don't mind so much that we believe in Jesus as a special prophet of God, but to say that He has been raised offends them, because they understand that exactly this matter of fact will exalt Jesus above Mohammed. How can we approach them?

On Easter afternoon I had two of my Turkish aunts at home, who came to visit my parents, before they would go to the cemetery to plant flowers at the graves of some relatives who had passed away. The weather changed fast, rain was pouring down which lasted for about three hours, and they could not go to the cemetery. They remained at our home.

On that day, our church invited some poor families to eat some Easter bread together with us. Eight families came and I had still some bread left. Returning home I met my two aunties and decided to share Easter bread with them too. At first they did not accept my offer to eat of it, but I pushed on and said: "Today we have a celebration! Today we celebrate that the MAN (in Turkish ADAM) has risen from the dead and He truly has risen. He is alive. Therefore we share the Easter bread with you that you too can be part of our joy. One aunt asked, "Is that true?" I said, "Believe me it is true! He truly is alive! He is the one who helps me all the time and a dead person cannot help us, only the LIVING can do! The reaction of my aunty was, "O, Okay. Let us eat then!"

So we shared bread and the Gospel message together! Satan has sin in his hands, lavishly littering among the living people on Earth. If he could rule over the Resurrection, all of us would tumble into hopelessness. Jesus received the Resurrection, because He obediently drank the bitter cup, which God prepared for him; a cup filled with our sins. There would not be a second Christ in case the first should have failed. The pure innocent ONE is only the ONE who has come from God. Hosanna, the tomb remained empty! Praises to the Lord, the Lamb of God, who was slaughtered, buried, and resurrected on the third day. He is worthy to be praised!!! Amen

MY VISIT TO PHILIPPI

by Tezdjan

Last month I had the privilege to travel with the municipality handicapped people's club "Xinap" three days to Greece. I was asked to assist people who needed some help and gladly used some of my income for going there with them.

The ancient city of Philippi in Northeastern Greece was an important city in the Roman province of Macedonia. In Paul's days it was a Roman city with Greek-Macedonian population and a Hebrew minority group (Acts 16:13). According to the book of Acts, the Apostle Paul established at Philippi the first church on European soil. In the same book we read about some events that took place in Philippi—the conversion of a woman called Lydia, the exorcism of a slave girl, an earthquake that took place while Paul and Silas were imprisoned, and about the faith of a jailer and his family. The opposition forced Paul and Silas to leave Philippi and they proceeded to Thessalonica. Yet, the Philippian Christians continued supporting them faithfully with prayers and finances.

The letter to the Philippians is above all Paul's other epistles a letter of appreciation, joy, and gratitude. He touches some important theological issues, as the second coming of Christ, the pre-existence of Christ, humility and exaltation, justification, and union with Christ. This beautiful letter shows us the rich insights of Paul's apostolic love for the Gospel and his bond to the converts. He shared with the Philippians his fears and anxieties, hopes and convictions, and in all these matters he reveals to them his unconditional confidence in Christ, through faith (Philippians 3:8–10).

In our days the archeological remains of Philippi are open for tourist. The excavations began at 1908 and are still continuing. The paved streets, the remains of colons, the foundations of houses, like fences, rooms and baths still communicate the atmosphere its citizens once enjoyed about 2000 years ago. All my senses for history came alive when we visited the excavations at Philippi. Many thoughts came to my mind about the people who lived there about 2000 years ago when I looked down on the remains of the ancient Philippi. It appeared like an illustration of the Pauline epistle to the church of Philippi. I imagined Paul and Silas walking on the streets, visiting people in their homes and preaching at the riverside and realized that we still do the same to draw people to Jesus about 2000 years later. The first Christians at Philippi were brought together by the apostle Paul into the first Christian community on the European soil.

May the love and grace of our good Lord be upon all His children! Amen

FIRST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH—MANILA PHILLIPPINES

by Pastor Arnel F. Cuba

God is good and great! On May 19, 2007, Pastor Cuba and family moved to Manila to spread the Gospel of Christ under the First Free Will Baptist Philippines.

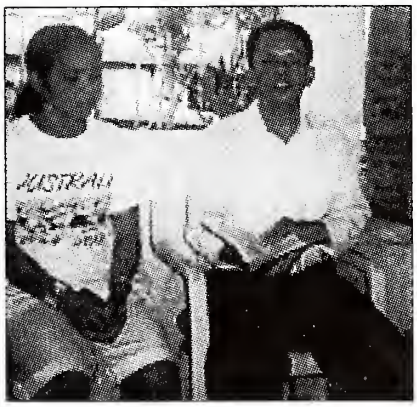
To open the work of God here in Manila is not easy; we started from the house because we have no church or building to gather for worship. We are now handling three areas or three house churches, which we gather in fellowship. We have our Sunday morning house church service in Caloocan, in the afternoon we traveled to Palmera San Jose Del Monte Bulacan, and Pleasant Hills Bulacan for our afternoon house church service.

On October 25, 2007, our Executive Director, the Rev. Harold Jones visited here in Manila, together with the Rev. Mark Taladro, President of Ministerial Conference of the First Free Will Baptist Philippines. They were visiting places or areas where God's work existed.

Our church plan here that each follower would leach one or "each one teach one" and cell grouping is one of our major targets to grow the ministry of God.

Attendees are praying always that God will provide a church or a temporary building for worship so that they are free to invite their friends, visitors, and loved ones.

Please continue to pray for us that God gives us boldness and strength to share the Good News of salvation to all the people, that God's ministry will be fruitful and successful.



Rev. Jun Buscano sharing God's Word

HOUSE CHURCH SERVICE—PALMERA, BULACAN, MANILA, PHILIPPINES

by Pastor Arnel F. Cuba

In November of last year, Pastor Jun Buscano and Mrs. Melada traveled to Manila for the operation of her daughter, Beverly. While they were here, Pastor Buscano helped me in sharing God's Word. We gathered together in the home of the Calugay Family for our afternoon Sunday service. We were encouraged by Pastor Jun to hold true and strong to our faith in God and trust Him in our Christian walk.

Please pray for the spiritual growth and strength of these young believers.

PRAISE THE LORD—PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

by Reverend Orlando T. Garcia

On February 3, 2008, the first regular worship service was held at its new venue at Dagomboy Village (formerly Mission House). Our previous worship service was held at Bgy. Bagong Silang at the residence of the De Jesus family where the house is built over the water of the bay. We, the members of the Lord Servant Free Will Baptist Church give our deepest gratitude to the Rev. Harold Jones for allowing us to use the aforementioned building to become a church. As of now we have a regular attendance of 16 adults and 15 children. In April we held a Baptism with 6 candidates.

Please do pray for the continual support for the members to be a part in sharing the Word of God for the lost.

During worship service

Sister Gilda–Hymn Leader

Vacation Bible School

Special Project For Foreign Missions

This year we have two exciting opportunities for you to help those with special needs in one of the countries where we have mission work.

For details call (252) 746-4963.

O.F.W.B. INTERNATIONAL
FOREIGN MISSIONS

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FATHER'S DAY—SUNDAY, JUNE 15

As you spend time with your family and friends today, and if you are fortunate enough to still have your dad with you, take time from your busy schedule to visit with him or call him on the phone, just to let him know you're thinking of him. Lift him up in prayer, and offer a prayer of thanksgiving to our heavenly Father for the bountiful blessings He has bestowed upon your life. These simple expressions of love create special memories that will live forever in your heart.

The staff and children of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home wish you ***"Happy Father's Day."***

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME...

Don't miss out on a fun evening of baseball and fellowship on Friday, July 25, 2008, at the 5th annual paper and cleaning products drive at the Carolina Mud Cats Stadium. This event is organized by the Spring Branch Free Will Baptist Church Layman's League, out of Walstonburg, NC to aid your Free Will Baptist Children's Home.

Last year the collection drive provided more than a one-year's supply of paper towels, toilet tissue, and some cleaning supplies.

The children and staff at the Children's Home look forward to an evening at the game, fellowshiping with church groups in the Free Will Baptist denomination and others, and the spectacular fireworks.

See you at the Game!

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER OBSERVANCE

On Thursday, May 1, the staff and children at the Home gathered in the campus park to participate in the National Day of Prayer. Isaiah, a resident of the Home, sang "My Country 'Tis of Thee" and Pastor Allen Stanley gave a brief history on the Day of Prayer and a short devotion. At the close of the service, everyone gathered around the flagpole and joined hands as we dismissed with prayer.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

We are pleased to announce we will have two candidates, Tiara B. and Sky W. for high school graduation on June 7, 2008.

Sky plans to move in with her aunt and work during the Summer. She hopes to start Shaw University in the Fall where she will major in mass communications.

Tiara is currently employed part-time at Wal-Mart. She plans to transfer to a Wal-Mart in Maryland, where she will moving to in August to stay with her grandmother, while attending Prince George Community College.

IN HIS SERVICE

We would like to express our thanks to all of the churches that have shared with us by collecting food and other items. It is all greatly appreciated.

Hopewell FWB Church, Smithfield is just one of several who have provided food items and support to the Home. Thank you for sharing.

NEEDS LIST

- Toaster Ovens
- Large Griddles
- Crock Pots (large 8 quart)
- Personal Hygiene Items (antiperspirant, body lotions, bath powder, shampoo, conditioner)
- Bed Pillows
- Vinyl Pillow Covers
- Twin Zipper Mattress Covers
- Laundry Detergent & Cleaning Supplies
- Cookware Sets (heavy duty)
- Canned Foods and Dry Goods (call for details)
- Gift Cards—Wal-Mart, Food Lion (for perishable food items)
- Trash Bags & Trash Receptacles (33 gallon or larger)
- Summer Trip Sponsor ($2500)

Please call if you have any questions about the needs.

The Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Board is seeking an assistant to work with the director on a part-time basis. This person should possess the following characteristics:

- A born again, spirit-filled Christian;
- An active member of an Original Free Will Baptist Church;
- An understanding of and be an active supporter of the mission of the Sunday School Board;
- Effective communication/people skills;
- Organizational and financial skills;
- Effective public speaking skills;
- Knowledge of effective teaching and learning systems;
- Available to travel.

If you are interested, send your resumé by June 30, 2008 to:

OFWB Sunday School Board
Re: Assistant Director;
PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513

STUDENTS HONORED AT MOC ANNUAL AWARDS DAY

Brown and Strickland

Edwards and Riley

Hines and Ash

Several FWB students were recently honored at Mount Olive College's Annual Awards Day in the Southern Bank Auditorium of the W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper Hall. These recipients are listed below along with the title of their particular award.

Ashley Edwards of Lucama received the 2008 Alumni Student of the Year Award. Edwards, a junior biology major, is the daughter of Teresa and Curtis Kirby. She is a member of the MOC Undergraduate Club, and serves as president of the Undergraduate Alumni Association. She attends Daniels Chapel Church in Wilson County.

The Rev. **Michael Bryan** of Greenville received the prestigious W. Burkette Raper Ministerial Student Award. Mr. Bryan, originally from Kinston, North Carolina, began serving as pastor to the First Church in Greenville in February of 2008. He is a member of the Eastern Conference of Original Free Will Baptists. Bryan and his wife Lisa have two sons, Blake and Austin, and one daughter, Michaela.

Cam Ash of Lucama received the Free Will Baptist Ministerial Association Award. Ash is a senior religion major in the Modular Religion program at Mount Olive College in Mount Olive. An active member of the Little Rock Church, Wilson County, Ash serves as chairman of board of ushers, Sunday School teacher, and youth program volunteer. He is licensed by the Western Conference of Original Free Will Baptists. Ash and his wife, Dana, have one daughter, Katie.

Sara Strickland of Goldsboro received the Louise Edgerton Preparatory Senior Teacher Award. Strickland, a senior English education major, is the daughter of David and Becky Strickland. She is a graduate of Eastern Wayne High School. Strickland is a member of Fellowship of Christian Students and the MOC Ambassador Association. She is also the current president of the Prospective Teachers Association. Strickland is a member of Walnut Creek Church, Wayne County. She is a leader in the student's Thursday night worship and is also active with the Monday night prayer group.

George Mitchell received the Charles B. and Margenette A. Hinnant Music Scholarship. George Mitchell is the son of Michael and Amy Mitchell of Princeton. He is a music education major specializing in guitar. He is currently a member of the Concert Choir and Free Spirit and plays guitar in the Chapel praise band. Mitchell is a member of Rains Crossroads Church, Johnston County, where he sings in the choir and plays in a praise band, Three in One. He has served as district president of the Western District Youth Convention and continues to be active at the district level. Mitchell is a graduate of Princeton High School.

Trent Lassiter of Selma received the M. L. Johnson Business Award. Lassiter, a junior business management major, is the son of Don and Linda Lassiter. He is a member of the Selma Church, Johnston County, where he is Sunday School superintendent and works actively with athletic activities in the church. While in high school he sang with the Young Disciples, a youth choir based at Pine Level Church.

Katherine Cahoon of Columbia, NC received the Outstanding Achievement Award for academic excellence presented by the Recreation and Leisure Studies Majors Club. Cahoon, a junior recreation leisure sports management major, is the daughter of James and Kathy Cahoon. Cahoon

is a member of the Mount Olive College Ambassadors, SAC, and the MOC Softball Team. During her freshman year, Cahoon was named Freshman of the Year and has also been named CVAC Player of the Week. Cahoon attended Columbia High School and is a member of Sound Side Church, Tyrrell County.

Matthew McLamb of Goldsboro was named the 2008–2009 Handy Mart Business Scholar. The Handy Mart Business Scholarships are sponsored by E. J. and Judson Pope who select two rising juniors majoring in business administration who best exhibit excellence in academics, college, and community service, and civic responsibility. The scholarships are valued at $8,000 per year. McLamb, a junior computer information systems major, is the son of Tony and Joyce McLamb of Goldsboro. He is a graduate of Southern Wayne High School and an active member of Walnut Creek Church, Wayne County. He is a worship leader for the students' Thursday night worship service and a member of the "Kornegay Krazies" a cheering team for athletic events. McLamb is active in other campus organizations including Monday night prayer group. He also has earned the Eagle Scout honor, the highest honor a Boy Scout can earn.

Christina Brock of Goldsboro received an award for Most Improved Cheerleader. She is the daughter of Leslie and Keith Brock and a graduate of Charles B. Aycock high school. Brock is a freshman majoring in teacher education and she is a member of Stoney Creek Church, Wayne County.

Pictures in clockwise order from top left: 1) Armstrong and Mitchell, 2) Bryan, Hines, and Dortch, 3) Cahoon and Carter, 4) Lassiter and Hood, 5) Taylor, Hood, and McLamb

ADMISSIONS AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Summer School Opportunities at Mount Olive College:

Daytime classes begin at Mount Olive and at MOC at Goldsboro on June 2, 2008. Summer Session B online begins June 9, 2008. Summer Session C online begins July 14, 2008. Contact <admissions@moc.edu> or call (800) 653-0854 for admissions and enrollment information. Visiting students are invited to spend their summer at MOC! Complete the free online application at <www.moc.edu>.

Freshman Advising Days June 21 and 27, 2008:

First time college freshmen who will be attending MOC in the Fall 2008 may participate in Freshman Advising Days on June 21 or June 27, 2008. Students will meet their freshman advisors and complete their fall class schedules as well as learn about financial aid and student life on campus. Parents are invited to share the day and attend special sessions on money matters, student services, student travel opportunities, and the Mount Olive community. Registration begins at 8:30 A.M. and the day will end by 4:00 P.M. For more information, contact <admissions@moc.edu> or call (800) 653-0854.

Evening Classes

Transform your life and career at MOC—One Night A Week:
One night a week programs, designed for working adults, are offered at convenient MOC locations in Mount Olive, New Bern, Washington, Wilmington, and Research Triangle Park, NC.

Evening College at Mount Olive:
Contact Allison Sullivan at <asullivan@moc.edu> or call (800) 653-0854.
Health Care Management (HCM) begins on June 23, 2008.

Mount Olive College at New Bern:
Contact Vaughn Purnell at <vpurnell@moc.edu> or call 1 (800) NEW GOAL
Criminal Justice and Criminology (CJC) begins June 2, 2008. 6–10 P.M.

Mount Olive College at Research Triangle Park:
Contact Dr. Robin Spaid at <rspaid@moc.edu> or call 1 (800) NEW GOAL
Heritage (AS degree) begins June 4, 2008. 6–10 P.M.

Mount Olive College at Wilmington:
Contact Dr. Marna Davenport at <mdavenport@moc.edu> or call 1 (800) NEW GOAL
HCM begins June 12, 2008. 6–10 P.M.

MOC HONORS FAITHFUL EMPLOYEES

Pictured (L-R): Happy Taylor, Lillian Grubbs, Nelda Smith, and Betty Keene

Mount Olive College recently honored four ladies that have collectively provided 119 years of service to the institution.

During a luncheon held in their honor, Dr. J. William Byrd, president of the College stated, "If you think about the years these ladies have been here, Nelda Smith arrived in 1968; Lillian Grubbs in 1978; Happy Taylor in 1982; and Betty Keene in 1983...they have been here as part of the life of this College in its most important years. They have been able to witness a great deal of what has happened here, and they have contributed to a great deal of what has happened here. And so they have been very important in the life of the College."

Tharen "Happy" Taylor of Deep Run began managing the MOC Bookstore in October of 1982 at the request of Dr. Burkette Raper, then president of the College.

"It was a good decision," Happy recalled. "It has been an exciting and a great time to be a part of the College."

For Happy, the biggest challenge that she has had as manager of the Bookstore was keeping up with the growing demand for books and apparel which included

ordering books and stocking shelves for the year-round programs offered at all six MOC locations.

When asked what she has enjoyed most about her career, Happy said. "Oh, I enjoyed the students. I enjoyed my co-workers. I enjoyed the parents who visited campus. I enjoyed alumni who stopped to see me and say hello."

Happy and her husband of 56 years, John Wesley Taylor, have two children, J. Wesley Taylor, Jr. and Lawanna D. Whitfield, both graduates of MOC. She is an active member of Smith's New Home Church, Lenoir County.

In 1974 after the death of her husband, the Rev. Herman Grubbs, Lillian Grubbs enrolled in the business program at Mount Olive College to prepare to support her family. She began working at the College in November of 1978 as an office machines technician. All eight of the couple's children have attended the College, as well as three spouses and seven grandchildren. Grubbs has served the institution for nearly 30 years, the last few years as secretary to the MOC Press.

"The College has really grown since I have been here," Grubbs observed. "They are adding so many different programs it has been amazing to see it develop." She is a member of Whaley's Chapel Church, Jones County.

Betty Keene joined Mount Olive College in April 1983 in the Office of Academic Affairs. She served this office during the period in which the College transitioned into a four-year institution. Betty provided support services to the Dean of the College and to many faculty.

"Betty was a very positive person who always exhibited a cheerful attitude. Betty has been an asset to Mount Olive College," stated Dr. Opey Jeanes, vice president for Special Services.

Dianne Riley, director of Alumni Relations stated, "Betty was always dependable; she never complained. She enjoyed her work and it showed in all that she did. She always greeted everyone and everything with a smile. She is a lovely person and I am blessed to have known her and worked with her."

Keene has two daughters, Beverly Kelly and Phyllis Beers.

Nelda Smith, payroll coordinator at Mount Olive College, spent over half of her life working at MOC, and she loved every minute of it.

"Mount Olive College has been good to me and for me," Smith said, "but after 40 years at the College I have decided to retire in order to have more free time for myself and to spend with my family."

Smith began working at the College in 1968 as bookkeeper, and since then she has assisted with accounts payable, HR duties, mail distribution, and payroll coordination. "I was on the downtown campus, back then," she stated, "in fact, all of the offices, the bookstore, the library, cafeteria, art and music suites, and auditorium were all in the SAME building!"

Things have certainly changed throughout her career at MOC, and Nelda remarked on these developments, saying, "MOC has added staff and faculty over the years, as well as the new locations."

The most challenging thing has been learning the new technology. "There were no computers in our offices," Nelda recalls. "But facing that challenge to stay up-to-date was part of what I enjoyed most about my job. I also enjoyed making so many new friends, and working with such high caliber people."

Nelda was married to the late William Harris "Bill" Smith. They had three daughters, Caroline Phillips, Cindy Parker, and Melody Wilson and five grandchildren. Smith lives in the Indian Springs Community of Mount Olive and she is a member of Seven Springs United Methodist Church. Two of her daughters attended MOC.

At the close of the event, Dr. Bryd presented each of the retirees with red roses and a chair embossed with the College seal.

"We are grateful to all of you for the things you've done for the College and for the contributions you have made; we certainly are a better place and a stronger place because of the work you have done here," he said. "Think of us often, come back often, let us benefit from your presence. I have already missed you."

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE STUDENTS SERVE AS OFFICERS OF SGA

Congratulations to the eleven students who have been elected to serve on the Student Government Association at Mount Olive College for the 2008–2009 academic year. These dedicated students recently took oaths pledging their loyalty to the student body of Mount Olive College as they were inducted into the Student Government Association (SGA) Executive Cabinet as well as the Student Council.

Crystal Guy of Clayton, NC (Powhatan Church, Johnston County) will serve as the executive cabinet president; Yeeka Yau of Sydney, Australia will serve as the executive cabinet vice president; Michael Quintas of Jacksonville, NC will serve as the executive cabinet secretary; and Deborah Woodrum of Zionville, NC will serve as the executive cabinet treasurer.

As members of the Executive Cabinet, the students will serve as an advisory council to the College's administration and faculty and will be responsible for the quality and content of student life at the College. The students wrote platforms on why they wished to

be members of the Executive Cabinet and were then elected by vote.

Members of the senior class student council include Victoria Taylor of Castle Hayne, NC as president; and Michael Wheeler of Beulaville, NC (Sandy Plain Church, Duplin County) as vice president. The positions of secretary and treasurer are still available.

Members of the junior class student council include Michael Ratley of Hope Mills, NC as president. The positions of vice president, secretary, and treasurer are still available.

Members of the sophomore class student council include Kelli Kosuda of Goldsboro, NC as president; Brian Parnell of Lucama, NC (First Church in Wilson) as vice president; Nick Melvin of Princeton, NC as secretary; and Justin Potter of Kinston, NC as treasurer.

The freshman student council is currently open to nominations and will be filled in the fall semester. Campus Activities Board (CAB) Chairpersons, Residence Life Representatives, and Commuter Representatives are also to be announced.

IT TAKES MORE THAN JUST HOT AIR TO LEARN TO PLAY THE BAGPIPES

An instrument once considered quite esoteric, bagpiping is becoming very much a part of mainstream culture. And because of the increasing popularity, Dr. Alan Armstrong, chairman of the Department of Music at Mount Olive College and an accomplished bagpiper, is now offering lessons at the College.

Although the instrument only has nine notes, that doesn't make the bagpipe easy to learn to play.

"It just means that you don't have to read music to learn," Armstrong said. "And, contrary to myth, you don't need a huge set of lungs. The blowing comes with practice," he smiled.

What a student does need is a good sense of rhythm, finger dexterity, and independence of movement. With those qualities, Armstrong can teach anyone from the age of eight to eighty to play the ancient symbol of Celtic heritage.

"Bagpiping is a highly rewarding personal endeavor, especially for adults who never learned to play an instrument and wish they had," Armstrong stated.

Beginner students don't start on the bagpipe. First they practice on a chanter, which is like a recorder. On the chanter, they learn the basic fingering technique and some easy tunes before picking up an actual bagpipe. Lessons usually last an hour and are offered weekly.

John Newcomb a junior English major from Lucama, is taking lessons from Armstrong. He is a member of Marsh Swamp Church in Wilson County.

"Dr. Armstrong is a superb instructor. I have been taking bagpipe lessons with him since August of 2008," Newcomb stated. "He has been very patient when I make mistakes, and he has offered me advice on how to hone my skills. These lessons have allowed me to broaden my cultural horizons."

From L–R: John Newcomb and Dr. Alan Armstrong

Armstrong is an accomplished bagpiper having won numerous awards including a recent bronze medal at the Citadel Games in Charleston, NC, in February 2008. His most mentionable award however, was taking home the gold at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in 2006.

For more information about bagpipe lessons, contact Dr. Armstrong at (919) 658-7188.

MEMBERS OF PHI BETA LAMBDA PLACE IN STATE COMPETITION

Nine Mount Olive College students recently received awards at the State Leadership Conference Competition of the North Carolina State Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda (PBL).

First and second place winners will represent the State PBL Chapter at the National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia this June.

Josh Marquez of Faison received first place in Computer Concepts and eighth place in Accounting Principles. Victoria Taylor of Castle Hayne received first place in International Business and fourth place in Accounting Analysis & Decision Making. Brian Parnell of Lucama and a member of First Church in Wilson, Wilson County, received second place in Client Service.

Gerald Jones of Mount Olive received fourth place in Human Resource Management and fourth place in International Business. Hope McPherson of Clarendon and a member of Beaverdam Church, Columbus County, received fourth place in Client Service. Kristen Knowles of Mount Olive received fourth place in Management Analysis & Decision Making.

Kenneth Jones of Dudley received sixth place in Cyber Security. Crystal Guy of Clayton and a member of Powhatan Church, Johnston County, received sixth place in Contemporary Sports Issues and Mary Hare of Smithfield and a member of Rains Crossroads Church, received eighth place in Management Analysis & Decision Making.

At the conference, Dr. Kathy Best, professor of accounting at MOC and Mrs. Sonya O'Brien, assistant professor of business at MOC and a member of Hugo Church, Lenoir County, received certificates for serving as local chapter advisers. In addition, O'Brien was recognized for serving on the State Awards Program Committee. She brought greetings from the FBLA-PBL National Board of Directors and presented the Career and Membership Awards Program from the national office.

The Mount Olive College PBL Chapter was presented the prestigious Terry Lowrance Leadership Award, recognizing the chapter for outstanding projects and participation in state and national activities and programs. The MOC PBL chapter was also awarded second place for the Largest Local Chapter Membership and third place for Professional Division Membership in the Eastern Region of NC PBL. This chapter contributed to the March of Dimes and was acknowledged for their donations.

"Mount Olive College's PBL chapter was chartered April 10, 1957 and has been an active chapter the past 51 years," stated O'Brien. "I personally appreciate the support Phi Beta Lambda has received from the College through the years."

Phi Beta Lambda provides opportunities for students to enhance their self-confidence and leadership skills, sharpen public speaking skills, build friendships, apply money management techniques, network with business leaders, and acquire job readiness skills. The Phi Beta Lambda national organization is operated in cooperation with the United States Office of Education, the American Vocational Association, and the National Business Education Association.

COMING EVENTS

BILL CLINGAN'S BASKETBALL CAMP

Bill Clingan's Basketball Camp will be held June 25–28 at Kornegay Arena on the campus of Mount Olive College. Boys and girls ages 6–16 are invited to attend. The purpose of this camp is to provide a competitive learning environment for each camper to improve his or her skill level. Camp staff includes MOC basketball coaches, current and former college players, and high school coaches. Registration and prospective campers are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible to guarantee enrollment. Cost is $150 with a $25 deposit required to reserve a space. This includes hot lunches at the Murphy Center, t-shirt, contests with prizes, guest speakers, and a low camper-staff ratio. Bring a friend and receive a $10 discount. For more information, visit our website at <www.moc.edu> and click on "athletics" or contact Tina Parks at (919) 658-7759 or (800) 653-0854 ext. 1241 or email me at <tparks@moc.edu>.

IS YOUR CHURCH IN THE LOOP FOR TOUCHING LIVES FOR A LIFETIME?

IN SO MANY WAYS, SPIRITUAL DARKNESS SEEMS TO BE GROWING IN AMERICA. At the same time, the light of Jesus Christ can dispel the darknes as Original Free Will Baptists become involved in **PRAYING** for those around us, **CARING** for the hurting, and **SHARING** the Good News appropriately.

OUR ENDEAVOR is to follow our a signment and aim in planting churches, a isting the declining churches, charting scout units, helping our churches reach its community through effective evangelism, building a Disaster Relief Ministry that follows the Master's Plan, and developing a Bikers Ministry that includes a Prison Ministry.

2010 ESSENTJAL GOALS:	TO DATE:
• Plant 5 mission/churches	3 possibilities by 09
• Assist declining churches/Harvest Covenant	Five
• Charter 15 Boy Scout Units	Chartered three
• Plant 5 Hispanic mission/churches	Opened one
• 5 county wide Hispanic revivals	Held two
• Out-reach/In-reach Evangelism Training	Conducted six
• Increase Touching Lives Corps	Seven youth groups
• 2 "Andrew's Place" (thrift store/soup kitchen)	One in 2008
• Biker/Prison Ministry	Accomplished
• Secure facility for Disaster Relief Ministry	Accomplished
• 250 membership—Disaster Relief Ministry	Exceed by 50 (300)
• Harvest Helpers Prayer Team	Completed by 09/08
• Develop Mobile Ministry	Accomplished

CHURCH EXTENSION

Charity Mission—Whiteville, N.C.
Missionary, Shelton Cribb

Free Spirit—Wilson, NC
Missionary, Bobby Futrell

Daly's Chapel—LaGrange, NC
Missionary, To Be Determined

Faith Training Center—Morehead City, NC
Coordinator, James Gurganus

Sunrise Landing Mobile Church

New Missionaries and New Fields

ETHNIC MISSIONS:

H'mongs — 9 worship groups, California
2 worship groups, North Carolina
1 worship group, St. Paul, Minnesota
1 worship group, Las Vegas, NV
1 worship group, Sail Lake City, UT
1 worship group, Milwaukee, WI

H'mong Youth Camp, California

H'mong Youth Camp, North Carolina

Hispanic — Alpha & Omega OFWB, Ayden, NC
Director, Dr. A. Graham Lane
Coordinator, Jose Perez

LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY

(Praying, Caring, Sharing)

a. Usher Training
b. Invitational Visitation
c. JESUS Video Project
d. Bible Distribution
e. Canning Hunger
f. Harvest Helpers

To learn more about the ministries of Home Missions and Evangelism and how you or your church can participate in reaching your community and America for Christ, please contact our offices at (252) 526-9908, by e-mail to <assistant@ofwbhomemissions.org>, or write to 2600 W. Vernon Ave., Kinston, NC 28504.

MINISTER'S PROGRAM SUNDAY

"Dedicated to Those Who Serve"

The Minister's Program has been a ministry of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists since the mid 1930s. Those were tumultuous times. The country still remained in the grip of the Great Depression when Franklin Roosevelt introduced what we know now as Social Security. This small government pension was a tremendous help for the elderly who had no way of earning money to provide for their basic needs. The program was a difficult sell to Congress and the President campaigned hard for its passage. He even sent a letter to many ministers, who were excluded from the program, soliciting their support from the pulpit in an effort to get the congregation to contact their representatives to work for its passage.

In an effort to fill the void for the ministers who were left behind the Convention created "The Board of Superannuation." Its purpose and goal was to raise funds at the local church level and distribute them to retired and disabled ministers. The real challenge was that at that time churches often did not have sufficient funds to pay their pastor, often resorting to smoked hams and garden vegetables to supplement his income. The original program was never really able to provide meaningful benefits to these men although the small checks were always appreciated.

While the program never fully accomplished its goal of providing meaningful benefits to the retired minister it did shine a light on a real problem. The problem was this—men who had stepped out in faith to answer God's call were retiring in poverty. What went wrong? Were these men bad planners? Did they not manage their finances well? In reality everyone will agree that it is difficult to plan for the future when you are unable to fulfill your present obligations. Just how do you set aside a portion of smoked ham and vegetables into a retirement program? Even for those who were being paid they were left with choices between groceries and retirement. This is not a choice at all.

In an effort to solve an immediate problem the Convention of the 1930s established a third party, Superannuation, to try to meet the responsibilities of the local church. Every church has a duty to see that the needs of its pastor are met. This is accomplished by providing the pastor with a living wage. This wage should be sufficient not only for his present needs but also for the future needs of retirement. Ask yourself this question. Is our church funding our pastor's retirement at a level that will allow him to retire with the dignity worthy of a person who has given his life in the high calling of ministry?

One of the most important things that the Minister's Program does is administer a top flight retirement program that allows churches and ministers to work together in planning for a retirement that is sufficient to meet his family's needs. The Minister's Program is in the promise keeping business. Whether it is to a retired minister, a widow, an older minister at Christmas, or a young minister starting out, we have made and continue to make promises to those we serve.

The pastor/church relationship is a covenant. Promises made, promises kept.

Father's Day, June 15, 2008 has been set aside by the Convention as Minister's Program Sunday in the local Church. While this may not be front page news in the world the Minister's Program does some pretty positive things for ministers within our denomination and we depend on you to help us keep these promises.

Most of the promises that the Minister's Program makes involve finances. Did you know that during this past year your church, through its support of the Minister's Program sent $150 to every minister age 65 and older in our denomination? This was a total of over $14,000 through an annual project called Christmas Cheer.

Unlike many retirement programs maintained by large corporations the Ministers Retirement Program is fully funded dollar for dollar. This is due in part to the management of the board and the gifts received from the churches that support the important work that we do. This assures our participating ministers that their monthly retirement income will continue uninterrupted now and into the future. Many of our retired ministers have outlived their benefits but continue to receive their monthly and quarterly checks. This is only possible through the churches' support of this program on an annual basis.

Ministers Program Sunday is a day that each of you can assist this program in keeping the promises made to our ministers.

The purpose for Minister's Program Sunday is twofold. Fathers Day is a day in which we honor our fathers who are living and remember those who are not. When we describe fathers we generally use terms like love, strength, leadership, hardworking, diligent, tireless, wise, understanding, and compassionate. Would you use some of these same terms to describe your pastor? Certainly! And although your pastor may not be your father the same characteristics that make a good father also make a good pastor. This day will give you an opportunity to consider your pastor in the same light that we think about fathers. When congregations view their pastor in a positive light then positive things seem to happen in our churches.

Another consideration for Minister's Program Sunday is that unless your church was just recently started you have probably had several pastors. More than likely one or more of these men are a part of some phase of the work of the Minister's Program. Your support helps us help them. Think about it. Each year benefits have been paid directly to or used on behalf of those ministers that participate in the work of the Minister's Program. This is only through the generosity of God's people, you!

Does your church contribute to the Minister's Program? You may find it surprising that almost 30% of our churches did not provide any gift support to the Minister's Program last year. Please consider receiving a special offering this Father's Day or sending a special gift to the Minister's Program so we can continue the program you have commissioned us to do.

The FWB Minister's Program
Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513

"For even hereunto were ye called: Because Christ also suffered for us, Leaving us an example, That we should follow his steps (1 Peter 2:21).

FOUNDATION HOLDS THIRD ANNUAL MEETING—EXPANDS ITS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Participants in the third Annual Meeting of the Foundation For Christian Ministries held April 22 at Little Rock Original Free Will Baptist Church, Lucama, NC (left to right): Donnie E. Lassiter, foundation director, who presided; W. Burkette Raper, president; Dr. Michael G. Cogdill, dean and professor, Campbell University Divinity School, and Dr. Bruce P. Powers, professor of Christian Education at Campbell. The event, attended by approximately seventy people, began with a delicious dinner in Heritage Hall, coordinated by Mrs. Kitty Barnes and served by the Men's Fellowship of the church.

Scholarships for Christian Ministry

"The distinctive mission of the Foundation is to provide a means, heretofore not available, to help Original Free Will Baptists become more effective in the work to which God has called us," declared Dr. W. Burkette Raper in giving a profile of the Foundation.

Due to of the critical need for pastors and other qualified personnel for the ministries of Original Free Will Baptists, he stated that the Foundation has expanded its scholarships to include not only pastors but also others called of God to Christian Ministry. For scholarship purposes, he explained that the Foundation defines Christian Ministry "as a vocation in a church, an institution, or program that is sponsored by a church or church-related organization. This definition is intended to include all ministries of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The primary purpose of Foundation scholarships" he added, "is to help equip those called to ministry do work that is worthy of God."

Financial Information: Gift Support Approaches $1.7 Million

At the annual meeting, Dr. Don Ribeiro, M.D., treasurer, reported that during calendar years 2006 and 2007 gifts to the Foundation for all purposes had totaled $1,689,966, including $1,608,509 for endowments, $19,350 for the Christian Ministries Scholarship Fund, $45,000 in Charitable Gift Annuities and $17,137 for unrestricted purposes. Services of the officers and directors of the Foundation are all voluntary—without compensation.

Mr. Charles L. McLawhorn, Jr., a director and chairman of the Investment Committee, reported that the Foundation has placed $1,247,543 of its endowment with BB&T, and that the remainder of the endowment portfolio was in equities contributed to the Foundation and in cash reserves.

Program: Education For Excellence In Christian Ministry

The program also included remarks by Dr. Cogdill of the Campbell Divinity School about its partnership with Mount Olive Col1ege. Through this partnership, Campbell offers on the Mount Olive Campus the core courses leading to a Master of Divinity degree and various other graduate degrees in Christian ministry. Students enrolled in this partnership receive a special tuition grant not only in courses at Mount Olive but after they enroll in courses on the Campbell campus. These students are also eligible for scholarships from the Foundation. Dr. Cogdill declared the partnership had been successful and that the Divinity School "has never had a single person to graduate who was not free of tuition debt. That is not the trend in theological education," he added.

Dr. Bruce P. Powers, professor of Christian Education, Campbell Divinity School, inspired those in attendance with his message, based on Ephesians 4, that "All Christians have gifts that can be used in Christian ministry."

POINTS OF VIEW ON THE FOUNDATION

From A Scholarship Recipient

To: Buddy Sasser, Director of Convention Services

As a student and an ordained OFWB minister, I want to express my thanks for the continued financial support of the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries. The Foundation hosted its third annual meeting on Tuesday, April 22 at Little Rock OFWB Church in order to continue casting its vision and to recognize donors and recipients.

As I have decided to pursue a Master of Divinity in Richmond, Virginia (and have been, subsequently, out of the OFWB "loop"), it has been very encouraging to know that I continue to have the support and backing of my denomination as expressed through the Foundation. I feel safe in speaking on behalf of other recipients in expressing our thanks for the assistance and encouragement of the Foundation as we have embarked upon the never-ending journey of continuing our [formal] education for the sake of better serving our Lord and our sisters and brothers. Thanks.

Marc Boswell, Student
Union Theological Seminary
Richmond, Virginia

From A Pastor:

Dear Dr. Raper:

First and foremost, thank you for your vision and leadership in giving birth to the concept of the NCFCM. Truly it is an idea whose time has come. As the "preacher" reminds us in Ecclesiastes 3:1, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." As you have said many times, and I strongly agree, this may well be the most important development to bless our entire denomination that has occurred in recent history. The work of equipping our pastors is of ultimate importance to the continued success and future of the entire denomination.

De W. Eakes, Pastor
Little Rock Original Free Will Baptist Church
Lucama, NC

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT YOUR DOORSTEP

The Free Will Baptist Church: History, Faith, and Polity

A three-semester hour course taught by Dr. Alan Lamm, On-line: July 14–August 17 through Mount Olive College. Moves are being made to cover tuition for this course ($750) through the financial aid program of the College and a scholarship from the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries.

To enroll, contact:

Admissions Office, Mount Olive College
Tim Woodard
Poole Administrative Building
634 Henderson Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854 ext. 1201
twoodard@moc.edu

For a Foundation Scholarship, contact:

W. Burkette Raper
619 West Main Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(919) 658-3855 or (919) 658-5250
wraper@moc.edu

Campbell University Divinity School Classes at Mount Olive College for Fall Semester:

DIV 1000 Introduction to Theological Education (2 hrs)
DIV 4070 Worship and Spiritual Formation (1 hr)

These courses will be taught by Dean Michael Cogdill. The courses will be taught from 2:30 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. every other Monday beginning August 25. The dates for these courses will be: August 25, September 8, September 22, October 6, October 20, November 3, November 17, and December 1.

To enroll or for scholarship assistance from Campbell Divinity School, contact:

Campbell University Divinity School
Kelly M. Jones, Director of Admissions
Post Office Box 4050
Buies Creek, NC 27506
(910) 839-1865 or (800) 760-9827 ext. 1865
kjones@campbell.edu

For Scholarship assistance from the NCFCM, contact:

W. Burkette Raper
619 West Main Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(919) 658-3855 or (919) 658-5250
wraper@moc.edu

Past Award Recipients

Name	Church	Conference	Seminary, Divinity School, College
Matthew Grubbs	Plymouth	Albemarle	Asbury Theological Seminary
John Hill	First FWB Goldsboro	Western	Baptist Theological Seminary (Richmond)
Fred Baker	Robert's Grove	Cape Fear	Campbell Divinity School
Gregory Barnes	Saratoga	Central	Campbell Divinity School
Calvin Heath	Rains Crossroads	Western	Campbell Divinity School
Ronnie Hobgood	LaGrange	Central	Campbell Divinity School
Todd Sutton	Daly's Chapel	Eastern	Campbell Divinity School
David Vesper	Beaufort	Eastern	Campbell Divinity School
Ricky Warren	Lee's Chapel	Cape Fear	Campbell Divinity School
Joshua Whitfield	Rooty Branch	Eastern	Campbell Divinity School
William Ash	Little Rock	Western	Mount Olive College
David Currie	Marsh Swamp	Western	Mount Olive College
Adam Williams	Stoney Creek	Western	Mount Olive College
Bradford Williamson	Black Jack	Central	Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Marc Boswell	Spring Branch	Central	Union Theological Seminary (Richmond)

Camp Vandemere

Camp slots are available for each of the camp weeks available at Camp Vandemere this summer. Contact one of the directors and send your youth to camp this year to enjoy a spiritual walk with other fellow campers. As always, thank you for your prayers and support.

CAMP VANDEMERE 2008 CAMP SCHEDULE

Women's Week
June 2–5, 2008
Audrey (Stumpy) Quinn
2356 Wintergreen Road
Cove City, NC 28523
(252) 638-6406
Judy Kennedy
(910) 298-4311

Daniel's Chapel OFWB Church Week
June 15–20, 2008
The Reverend Walt Tyndall
5473 Appie Road
Walstonburg, NC 27888
(252) 753-5005

Lighthouse Keeper's Week
June 22–26, 2008
Cristy Ramsey
2165 Kinston Hwy.
Richlands, NC 28574
(910) 358-2103
Angie Toler
(252) 244-1850

Spring Hope OFWB Church Week
July 6–11, 2008
Eva Mae Clark
465 Half Moon Road
New Bern, NC 28560
(252) 637-5346
Debbie Warren
(252) 637-4560

General Youth Camp Week
July 13–18, 2008
The Reverend Wesley Taylor
P. O. Box 188
Vandemere, NC 28587
(252) 745-3171
(252) 514-3222

New Bethlehem OFWB Church Week
July 20–25, 2008
Sandy Williams
156 Williams Lane
New Bern, NC 28560
(252) 745-9840

First OFWB Church of Wilson Week
July 27–August 1, 2008
The Reverend Doug Radford
1446 Old Smithfield Road
Goldsboro, NC 27530
(919) 734-4602

Branch Chapel OFWB Church Week
August 3–8, 2008
The Reverend Terry Dennis
2160 Glendale Road
Kenly, NC 27542
(919) 284-6144

We are here today at the Cape Fear District Woman's Auxiliary to honor an outstanding Christian lady with the Dola Dudley Award. The recipient of this award was born on November 9,1921 and grew up in the Hopewell Original Free Will Baptist Church Community. Her mother was the first secretary of the Woman's Auxiliary at the Hopewell Church and while growing up she attended many of these meetings. She was a faithful member at the Hopewell Auxiliary and helped organize the Girl's Auxiliary. She married in 1940 and early in their marriage, her husband accepted the call into the ministry and was ordained in 1949. During the next twenty years she and her husband served many churches in our denomination. After her husband retired they became members of the Smithfield First Free Will Baptist Church. She has been a friend of Dola Dudley since the 1940s.

The recipient of this award is the proud mother of four children, two sons and two daughters, nine grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Her youngest son accepted the call into the ministry and was licensed by the Smithfield Church on March 15, 1976. While a member at Smithfield Church, she has been very active serving in various offices of the Auxiliary, a member of the church choir, a teacher of the Lillie Crumpler Sunday School Class, served as assistant church clerk and church clerk for many years, and was instrumental in setting up the Church Library in memory of her husband. She has always been active and rendered support to all of our denominational ministries. In the 1980s, she was ordained as a deacon by the Smithfield Church and has faithfully served in that capacity. Previously, she has received a Life Membership Award from the Cape Fear District Woman's Auxiliary.

This year's recipient of the Dola Dudley Award loves to read and study her Bible. She also likes to do needlepoint and many of these items are on display and use in her home for her family and friends to admire.

It is our privilege and honor to present this year's Dola Dudley Award to a worthy lady who bears the name of Lucille Johnson Coates, the widow of the Rev. Albert Coates, and the proud mother of the Rev. Donald Coates, pastor of the Pine Level OFWB Church.

CHRIST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

EASTER EGG HUNT

Christ Free Will Baptist Church Ladies Auxiliary sponsored an Easter egg hunt at church on Saturday, March 22. Eggs filled with candy were hid in the church yard and the children looked for them. Categories were broken down by age groups and big-eared chocolate bunnies were awarded for most eggs found. There was also a basket prize for the correct number of jelly beans guessed in the jar.

Approximately 46 children participated in the egg hunt. Refreshments of cookies, cake, and drink were served in the fellowship hall following the egg hunt. A good time of fellowship was enjoyed. This is just one of the many ways Christ Free Will Baptist Church tries to reach out to the community and its children for the Lord.

Kristen Bankston and her son, Noah Bankston.

YOUTH RALLY ATTENDANCE

Pictured are all of the youth who attended the Youth Rally at Friendly Chapel in Greensboro on April 19, 2008. Pictured from Christ Free Will Baptist are: (front row, right to left) Jacob Woodlieff, Lily Hopper, and Seth Woodlieff; (2nd row, far right) Nellie Hopper; (3rd row, far right) Nancy Hopper.

A good time was had by all!

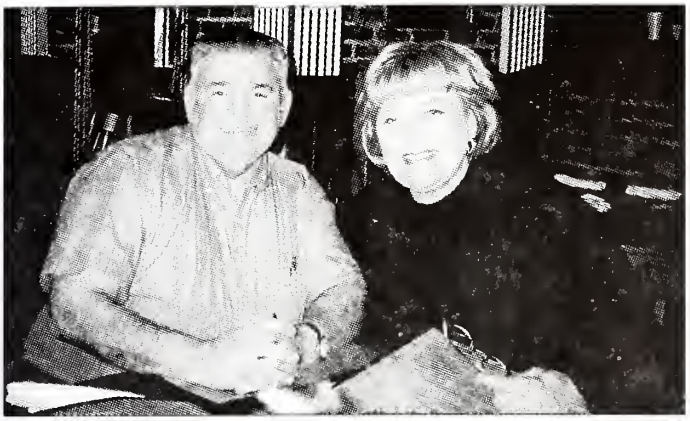
YOUTH RALLY WINNERS

On Saturday, April 19, Christ Free Will Baptist youth attended the Youth Rally at Friendly Chapel in Greensboro. All the youth enjoyed the fellowship with one another, the contests, and a taco lunch.

The Rev. David Atkins, of Christ Free Will Baptist Church, Stockdale, had two youth to win an award. Pictured are: 1st Place (in teenage group)—Nancy Hopper [back row] and (youngest age group) Seth Woodlieff [front row]

MINISTER PROFILE—DAVID ATKINS, CHRIST FWB CHURCH

This article is reprinted, with permission, from the December 21, 2007 edition of the Northwest Observer.



The Rev. David Atkins and his wife, Janice

"I never really thought I'd be a minister," says Rev. David Atkins, a life-long resident of Summerfield. In 1979 he became the pastor of Christ Free Will Baptist Church in Stockdale and has been serving there ever since. As a child he attended Summerfield's First Baptist Church with his family. He graduated from Northwest High School in 1966, part of the first class to begin as freshmen at Northwest.

Atkins, 60, first sensed God's call to the ministry in the early 1970s when he and his wife Janice were attending The House of Prayer in Kernersville. "You just feel that God has placed a call in your life," he says. "I prayed a long time. I ran from it, but the Holy Spirit kept ministering through me and in me." In 1974 at a church service in Kernersville, he accepted the call to preach. He was ordained three years later. "I love people," he says. "I'm outgoing, and I thought I could help people."

A bi-vocational pastor, Atkins is a plant manager for Digger Specialties, Inc. in Randleman, NC. He has worked in manufacturing his entire career. Although the church pays him every week, church member Pebbles Joyce says Atkins always gives the money back..

David and Janice have one son, Christopher, who teaches speech pathology at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

"I enjoy preaching and studying the word of God," says the pastor. In his sermon preparation, he seeks God's leadership. "I pray and ask him to speak to my heart and give me a scripture. I do a lot of reading. I'm always looking (for sermon ideas), always praying, always open."

The greatest challenge in ministry, he says, is "getting people in church—convincing people that they need Christ and fellowship in the Church." After working his full-time job, Atkins often devotes 15–20 hours to his ministry responsibilities: leading worship, studying, and making pastoral visits. In his leisure time, he enjoys golf and traveling.

After nearly 30 years as a pastor, Atkins has plenty of interesting experiences. He recalls his parents attending a revival he was preaching in Ferrum, Va. "They believed in shouting in that church. I just stopped preaching and let the Lord have his way. My mother was not a shouting woman, and that night she shouted," he says of one of his favorite memories.

Christ Free Will Baptist Church is located at 163 Hilton Road, Stockdale. For more information, call the church office at 427-3998.

WILSON FIRST CHURCH NEWS

On Sunday, April 13, the Woman's Auxiliary of Wilson First Church was honored in the morning worship. During the service, a Life Membership Award was presented to Janie Nichols. Janie has been a member of the Woman's Auxiliary since 1964. She has been loyal and worked very hard for the church and the Woman's Auxiliary—always making sure things run extremely well. Congratulations to Janie for this esteemed honor. Pictured left to right are: son, Randy, daughter, Donna, Janie, and husband, Gene.

ROCK SPRINGS FWB CHURCH, BAILEY—FEBRUARY 8–10, 2008

submitted by Sande Brown

Cragmont was the destination on February 8, 2008, as married couples began their journey for the first Couples' Retreat. The title of our retreat was "Strengthening Love and Faith."

This was a time of fun and games as well as strengthening the bonds of marriage. The Newlywed game let some of us know just how much (or how little) we remember about our early dating and married life. An enjoyable time was spent rambling around the town of Black Mountain on Saturday afternoon. We even walked up the mountain without giving out.

A time of Bible study using Scripture of husbands and wives, their perils and tribulations, as well as times of triumph provided inspiration for each couple. Couples shared times of joy and times of trials in their marriages. This provided insight as to the influence God plays and is willing to play in our married life decisions. It was truly uplifting.

We shared laughter, tears, and special moments as a group. As we left Cragmont (as always), the bond of love for each member of our group had grown.

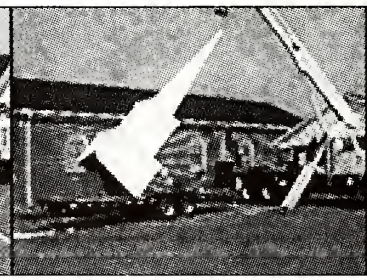
A very special thanks to Danny and Wendy Taylor and Dena Weaver for planning the retreat. Plans are underway for the second Couples' Retreat.

NEW SANDY HILL GETS NEW STEEPLE

Located just two miles south of Bailey on Highway 581, New Sandy Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church has been a part of the Bailey, Rock Ridge community for more than 100 years. More than thirty years ago a steeple was erected on top of the sanctuary. People traveling north or south down 581 could see the steeple, a beacon of light and hope atop the church.

Late last year, it was noticed the roof was leaking around the steeple. Further investigation showed that the steeple had deteriorated and would have to be removed. At the time, we had recently completed a project to pave the church parking lot and add a covered drive-through shelter onto the church. We didn't have the funds for a new steeple, but we had to do something. On Wednesday, January 9, the church voted to remove the old steeple before further damage was done to the roof. On Friday, one of the church trustees, with the help of friends and community resources, removed the old steeple and patched the roof. The next Sunday, the conversation throughout the church was the missing steeple. The following Wednesday, our pastor, Paul Nicholson, remarked on the how he missed the light from the steeple as he drove down highway 581. A challenge was issued to the congregation to give, as the Lord would lead us, to pay for a new steeple. By the end of February, the funds were in hand and the steeple was ordered. In early April the new steeple was installed, and once again, our steeple is illuminated high above the church, a beacon to all.

If you happen to be in the neighborhood, don't forget to look up when you go by our church. If it happens to be at night, you can see the steeple long before you get to the church. We are thankful we have been blessed with a beautiful place of worship, and we dedicate our church ministry and ourselves to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with others. Just as the lighted steeple draws you to our church, it is our desire that others will see Christ in us and be drawn to His saving grace and knowledge.



HOPEWELL HAPPENINGS

HOPEWELL'S "LIBERIAN EXPERIENCE"

Recently, the Woman's Auxiliary at Hopewell FWB Church had their missions study course. We always invite the Rev. Harold Jones and Mrs. Jones to present the course. Over the last few years, we have combined our study course with a meal featuring foods from one of our missions. This has created interest in giving for missions as well as creating a feeling of closeness with the far-away countries where the Free Will Baptist Church is establishing local congregations.

This year, our study course and supper was based on Liberia. To decorate our dining hall, the dining tables had black-and-white checkered coverings. The centerpieces simulated the landscape of Liberia. Glass salad bowls were filled with sand, a small mirror to represent a watering hole, sprigs of greenery to indicate jungle growth, and small plastic animals—lions, elephants and hyenas among others—which are indigenous to Liberia.

The menu consisted of a savory chicken and rice stew, stewed cabbage, a tropical fruit cup, cornbread patties, and coconut pie for dessert. Since Liberia was founded by freed slaves in the late nineteenth century, many of the foods they eat are similar to our Southern cooking.

After the meal, Mr. Jones set up a projector and screen and shared pictures and stories about people we were seeing. It made us feel as though we knew the people, too. Mr. Jones and Sandra, his wife, wore Liberian clothing—cotton items that were brightly colored and heavily embroidered. "Ma'am Sandra" (as Mr. Jones told us she was called out in the field) set up a display table with artifacts they brought back. We took up an offering at the end of the program to help with missions work. Our group always enjoys this event, and some have already asked what country we'll "visit" next year!

HOPEWELL'S REST HOME "HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS"

As the Christmas Season approached, the children learned about sharing and celebrating the Birth of Jesus. Here are some of the children at an area rest home as they went to spread cheer and celebrate that birth with the residents.

To the delight of the residents and staff, the Woman's Auxiliary places seasonal centerpieces on dining tables at one of the area rest homes.

a) Cindy McKenzie with winter snowmen.

b) Jean Langdon presents valentine roses for centerpieces.

c) June Langdon and Jane parker prepare Easter eggs for tables.

d) Here are some of the Easter baskets that were prepared by the Woman's Auxiliary and taken to the shut-ins of the church, nursing home, and rest home residents.

MRS. EDNA BAKER: A FRIEND TO CHILDREN

Edna and Floyd Baker moved to Wayne County in the fall of 1945. Mrs. Ila Berry invited them to attend Pleasant Hill Church in the fall of 1946. The second Sunday they attended church it was announced that Pleasant hill needed a Sunday School superintendent and a teacher for the very young children. Floyd was elected superintendent and Edna volunteered as the children's teacher.

The church did not have any Sunday School rooms. Edna held her nursery class of six or eight children on a church pew (everyone was in same room). Their ages ranged from infant up to eight years old. Each Sunday every child received a small picture card with the lesson printed on the back to take home. As history moved forward, Mrs. Edna enjoyed teaching using flannel graph lessons.

Edna and Floyd worked with other church members securing logs from landowners in the community to build Sunday School rooms. Edna's sons at ages eight and ten still remember helping at these log cuttings.

Edna always made a big deal of coloring and hunting Easter eggs with the church children. She would always sell enough eggs to buy a box of saltine crackers for the egg hunt. Every child in the church must find an Easter egg. Each child had eggs to eat and take home. Easter Sunday Edna made sure she had enough Easter baskets for each child plus one or two extra baskets. She had to shop hard to find brightly colored little baskets (all must be same size), little green grass and candied eggs on her very limited coins. What a joy to watch her assemble these baskets with such love, counting each piece of candy to make sure they were equal!

Christmas programs were another big responsibility. She always managed to have a back up supply of gifts for not only her children, but all children and adults in the church at the annual Christmas program. Any child who could talk had a line to say at the program. Edna invented the "No Child Left Behind" before anyone titled the phrase for public education.

When asked what she enjoyed most about her Sunday School children, she said with so much pride, "well, there are just no words to describe it. I was always able to get the children's attention, and keep their minds going throughout the lessons. The children just always loved to listen to me!" We all remember Edna promising them Juicy Fruit Chewing Gum if they were good. Times were hard and money was scarce but Edna would always have enough Juicy Fruit for every child.

Never has there been a Sunday School teacher with more love for her children than Edna. Many times when a child was crying, Edna would walk over, reach out her arms, and the little child would snuggle close and hush. Today at the age of 89 (eighty nine) she can still remember so many of their names. Her eyes light up at the sight of a tiny baby and she has to speak to it most often in a grocery store or doctor's office.

Edna has three children: a daughter, Shirley and Billy Carter in Selah Christian Church in Grantham community. Two sons, Joe and Jinnette Baker in Princeton Baptist Church in Princeton; the Rev. Fred and Linda Baker serving at Robert's Grove Baptist Church near Spivey's Corner. She has 6 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

The Church moved into their new sanctuary in 2002. The new nursery was named Edna Baker Nursery in her honor.

This article was written by daughter Shirley Carter and submitted by reporter Jackie Bunn Barbee for Pleasant Hill OFWB Church, Wayne County.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Gary Fenton Barefoot (left) was presented the Sunday School Teacher of the Year award, given by the Original Free Will Baptist Convention held at Mount Olive. Mr. Barefoot was unable to attend the convention so Bobby Johnson (right) presented the award at Robert's Grove Church.

Mr. Barefoot has taught Sunday School at Robert's Grove for more than 40 years. He retired from Mount Olive College as librarian and still works there occasionally.

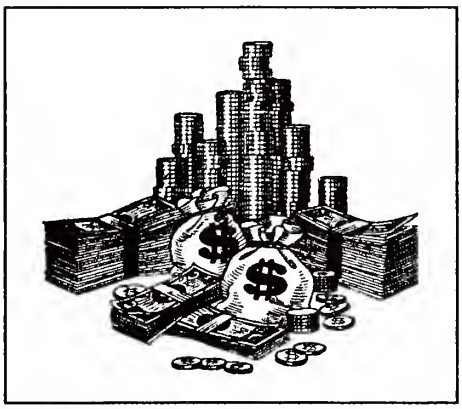
WHAT ABOUT THE JONESES?

by Donald Fader

You know the feeling; you're outside washing your 1999 Buick just like you have every week for the last 5 years. You bought the car in 2003 from a used car lot and it's been a good car. Sure you've spent a little money on maintenance and it is starting to show its age but, hey it's paid for. Even though it has 137,000 miles on it you don't worry about driving out of town, but you're not really sure you would drive it to California. That's just as well because you're not planning to go to California.

So here you are spraying glass cleaner on the windows, flipping the towel to make sure you don't leave any streaks when your neighbor pulls into his driveway sporting a brand spanking new Titanium Silver metallic BMW 550i with Dakota leather upholstery. He honks the horn, waves, and smiles at you like a Cheshire cat that just swallowed a canary. As he puts it in park, you notice the 30-day temporary tag. Oh, she's brand new and he waves you over to take a look. As he opens the door you catch a whiff of what is arguably the most expensive fragrance on Earth, that new car smell.

You ooh and ahh and tell him what a beautiful car it is and how happy you are for him. Now he tells you that he just got a big bonus at work and has decided to treat himself with a new car. Then you take the long walk back to your house noticing that even though it's clean that old Buick looks mighty shabby. Are you really happy for him or do you look at him with a certain degree of jealousy and envy? I mean that car probably cost over $50,000 and you begin to think how people would notice someone driving a car like that down the street.



Financial Planning: A Biblical Perspective

You work just as hard, you're just as smart, and you go to church every Sunday; but, now he is driving a brand new import while you're stuck with a more than used car with dings and scratches and oil leaks on the driveway. Let's be honest; sometimes it's hard to be happy for others when they have things that we don't.

We live in a country that puts a lot of emphasis on material goods. We measure the value of a person by what they drive, where they live, and the clothes they wear. There are even preachers that proclaim a prosperity gospel. They say that if you are living in the shadow of the cross that the Lord will reward you with all kinds of material wealth and possessions. As a matter of fact, some people wrongly equate your standing with the Almighty based on your financial statement. Is it any wonder that many Christians today consider material possessions as visible and tangible evidence of God's blessings?

We look upon what others have and wonder why we don't have the same things. Doesn't the Lord love us as much as other people? Why are some people getting ahead and we continue to struggle? Dissatisfaction is not necessarily a bad thing. It can be a powerful motivator that effects change in our life. It inspires us to study more, work harder, and be smarter with our resources and opportunities. But it can also fill us with envy and jealousy and instead of motivating us it can control us and ultimately destroy us. How?

When we look at others we take our eyes off Jesus. When looking at others we cannot look to Jesus and we are tempted to accept what the world offers in instead of what God offers us. Adam and Eve had been blessed by God but were led astray by what the serpent offered. Joseph's brothers were so jealous of him they sold him to slave traders. King David had everything a man could possibly want, yet when he saw Uriah's wife he desired what belonged to another. The Bible is filled with examples of people whose lives were ruined because they became unhappy with what they had, turned away from God, and were willing to exchange what God offered to accept what the world offered.

We can't do anything about the Joneses but we can work hard to maintain the proper relationship with Jesus. There is no sin in wanting better for you and those you love. It's only when you, like Peter walking on the water, take your eyes off Jesus you begin to sink. Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa said, "When the missionaries came to Africa they had the Bible and we had the land. They said 'Let us pray.' We closed our eyes. When we opened them we had the Bible and they had the land." Let me ask you, who do you think got the better deal? What possesses us is far more important than what we possess.

Psalms for the Soul

by Linda Herring

The Bible speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. Psalm 28:7 says, "The LORD is my strength and my shield, my heart trusted in him, and I am helped." Have you been to a bookstore lately? The shelves are full of self-help books. The idea of self-help is a popular because it supports the notion that we are in control. In the words of a poem: I am the master of my fate; I am the captain of my soul. But we are not. Eventually something happens that reminds us how out of control life is and no self-help book can help us make it right. Thankfully, Christians are not in the business of self-help. To become a Christian requires that we admit our helplessness and acknowledge our total dependence on God. Without me, you can do nothing, said Jesus. When difficult circumstances invade our lives, remember we have an all powerful God and we can trust Him. Do not let the stresses of the day steal your Psalm.

If you have any comments or prayer requests, you can contact me at <herring.theword@hotmail.com>.

HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHTS

Golden Oldies

(This article is a partial reprint from the front cover and p. 6 of The Free Will Baptist, *Wednesday, November 2, 1955, Vol.70, No. 43.)*

Winterville FWB Church was organized November 7, 1905, by the late Rev. T. N. Manning, who served as their first pastor. The congregation had forty-two with J. R. Smith being elected the first clerk, and Bryant Tripp and Will S. Nobles ordained as its first deacons. The original building was completed in the fall of 1906, with the first service being held the second Sunday in October.

The original building was damaged twice by hurricanes in its first fifty years of existence. Under the leadership of the Rev. N. D. Beaman, the original church auditorium was completely renovated with a new roof, windows, ceiling, and plastering. Also 12 Sunday school rooms were added, along with a nursery, rest rooms, library, utility rooms, and a new entrance.

(This article is a partial reprint from pp. 6–7 of The Free Will Baptist, *Wednesday, August 4, 1965, Vol.80, No. 30.)*

Hickory Chapel FWB Church was organized on April 27, 1878, with 12 charter members. On February 2, 1880, the first building was erected by the pastor, the Rev. William H. Slaughter, and the members and was later replaced by another frame building. On June 11, 1958, the present building was begun and was completed the last week in November of the same year. The first service was held in the new building on November 30, 1958.

The building is constructed of cement block and brick. It has a seating capacity of 410, 15 Sunday school rooms, pastor's study, library, heating plant, and two rest rooms. The church is valued at $80,000.

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A special summer discount applies for all children's and young people's groups (ages 5–19).
Visit <www.rockyhockplayhouse.com/sponsorship_page.html> for details.

Synopsis: The story of Ruth and Boaz is perhaps the most beautiful love story in the Bible. Ruth, a Moabite, was devastated when her husband died. Her mother-in-law, Naomi, was also distraught when her own husband died about the same time. Naomi was living in Moab at the time of her husband's death and decided her only hope for survival was to return to her homeland in Israel. Though she would surely be an outcast Ruth insisted on returning with her. One day, while gleaning wheat in the fields, Ruth caught the eye of Boaz a wealthy farmer and landowner. Through a series of remarkable circumstances Ruth and Boaz fell in love and married. Their son's name was Obed and his lineage can be traced to King David and even to Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus. Naomi and the "redeemer kinsmen" (named Reuben in this production) are also key figures in the musical. God used each of these characters to help bring about the remarkable conclusion to this wonderful story of hope and grace. Children and adults alike will thoroughly enjoy this production which is full of colorful costumes and sets, traditional Jewish folk dance, and some of the best music ever written for professional Christian theatre. The theme song, "Under His Wings" has become a classic in Christian music.

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Pictured (left to right): Gloria Emmerich, Katie Fridsma, Ryan Clemens, and Jeff Emmerich.

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Rocky Hock Playhouse, a professional stock company theatre, welcomes professional quality, non-union actors to apply for paid internships. All interns are extended a full contract with ETPC and are given the same casting options, opportunities, and considerations as any regular professional actor also hired by the production company. Housing is provided. Actors wishing to be considered for ETPC internships must be a minimum of 18 years old by the first day of their contract period. Contact Jeff Emmerich at (252) 339-0518 or etpc@mchsi.com, or visit the Playhouse website <www.rockyhockplayhouse.com>.

In all His dispensations God is at work for our good. In prosperity He tries our gratitude; in mediocrity, our contentment; in misfortune, our submission; in darkness, our faith; under temptation, our steadfastness; and at all times, our obedience and trust in Him.

—Anonymous

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Camp Vandemere, Inc. is seeking a full-time camp manager. If interested, please send resumé to: The Reverend J. R. Clark, 223 Carolina Pines Blvd., New Bern, NC 28560

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Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat

Camp Vandemere
Vandemere, NC
June 6–7, 2008

Theme: Being Salt and Light

Ye are the salt of the earth…Ye are the light of the world… (Matthew 5:13–16).

Friday, June 6	6:00 P.M.	Meal furnished by Convention of Layman's League
		Business Session
Saturday, June 7	8:00–9:00 A.M.	Breakfast ($5) and Fellowship
	9:00–9:45 A.M.	*The Salt of the Earth* by Brother Ken Akers*
	9:45–11:00 A.M.	Special Music by "The Juniper Five"
	11:00–11:45 A.M.	*The Light of the World* by Brother Tim Copeland
	11:45–12:00 P.M.	Prayer and Meditation
	12:00 P.M.	Lunch ($6)
	1:00 P.M.	Benediction

* Brother Ken Akers is the General Director of Master's Men for the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Each person planning to attend is requested to complete and return the form below by May 21, 2008.
Send form (with $12 overnight lodging fee) to: Mr. Elmer Harrell • 502 SE Third St. • Snow Hill, NC 28580.
Make checks payable to: State Layman's League.

Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat

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❑ I plan to stay at Camp Vandemere on Friday night, June 6.

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The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) **When the 5th falls on a weekend, material is due on the Friday before.** You may submit items by any of the following methods:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>,
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
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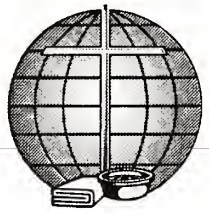

THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MONTHLY PLANNER

July 2008

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE MONTH

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Youth Conference @ Cragmont (June 29–July 3)		1	2	3 Bed, Breakfast, & Blessing @ Cragmont (3–7)	4 **INDEPENDENCE DAY**	5 STT to Mexico (5–12)
6	7 General Youth II Conference @ Cragmont (7–12)	8	9	10 Lunch & Learn Series: Drought Tolerant Plants for the Landscape, 12 P.M. @ MOC	11	12 STT to Mexico (12–19)
13	14 General Youth I Conference @ Cragmont (14–19)	15 Central Conf. Ordaining Board Meeting @ The Press, 10 A.M.	16	17	18	19
20	21 Young People's Bible Conference @ Cragmont (21–25)	22	23	24	25	26
27 August Woman's Aux. Conference @ Cragmont (27–Aug. 1)	28	29	30	31		

NOTE:

Color(s) for the season: The basic color is green, which symbolizes growth in Christ. Red may be used on civic holidays.

COMING SOON:

August 2–10: Camp Morelos, Mexico
August 4–7: Pee Dee Youth Conference @ Cragmont
September 13: First Annual Youth Worker's Summit @ MOC Raper Hall, 1–6 P.M.
September 19–21: Women's Mini Conference @ Cragmont

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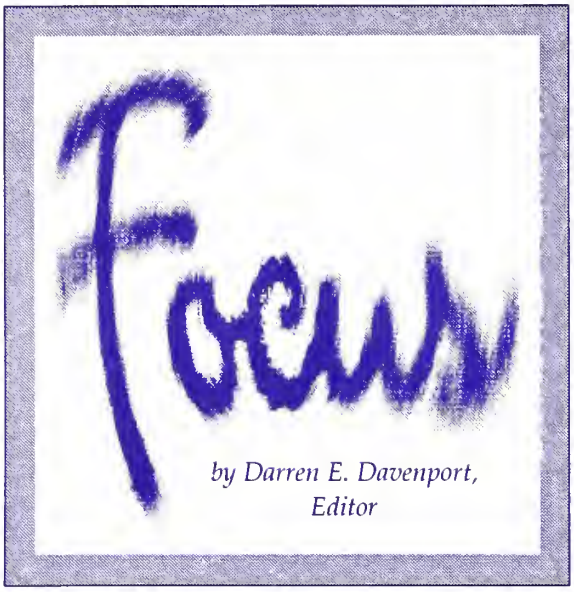
POWER VERSE

A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels (Proverbs 1:5).



Capital Campaign Update

We have reached another incredible milestone in our efforts with "The Press to $125,000" Capital Campaign. As of the time of this printing, we have raised a total of $64,558.60. To this I say "praise God from whom all blessings flow!"

We have just recently purchased an amazing printer. It will print breathtaking, vivid color on thin to really thick paper stock. This will expand our capabilities tremendously. We will even be able to produce items such as magnetic business cards and signage, CD/DVD labels, and banners and posters up to 12.9 x 47.24 inches.

I want to give a special thank you to all those who are making this special endeavor possible. It could not be accomplished without your generous prayers and financial support! Again—I say THANK YOU!

Please continue your support of this effort. We are half-way to our goal, but we still have that much further to go. If you have not yet pledged your prayers and financial support for this campaign, please consider beginning now. The first two purchases (computers and printer) are not complete without the final piece of equipment—the imagesetter. This item will complete improvements to everything we print—from *The Free Will Baptist*, curriculum, *Devotion*, Layman's League Bible studies, and more. Our success here will lead to a better-than-ever ministry of Original Free Will Baptists as we continue to "Spread the Word Through the Printed Page"—which is our chief calling—and as we seek to provide complete printing services for our fellow ministries and the people of faith called Original Free Will Baptists!

I welcome your comments, criticisms, and/or suggestions. You may e-mail me at <editor@fwbpress.com>.

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From Humble Beginnings: Former Mount Olive College President Has Never Forgotten His Roots

by Phyllis Moore, Goldsboro News-Argus.
Goldsboro News-Argus photos by Bobby Williams

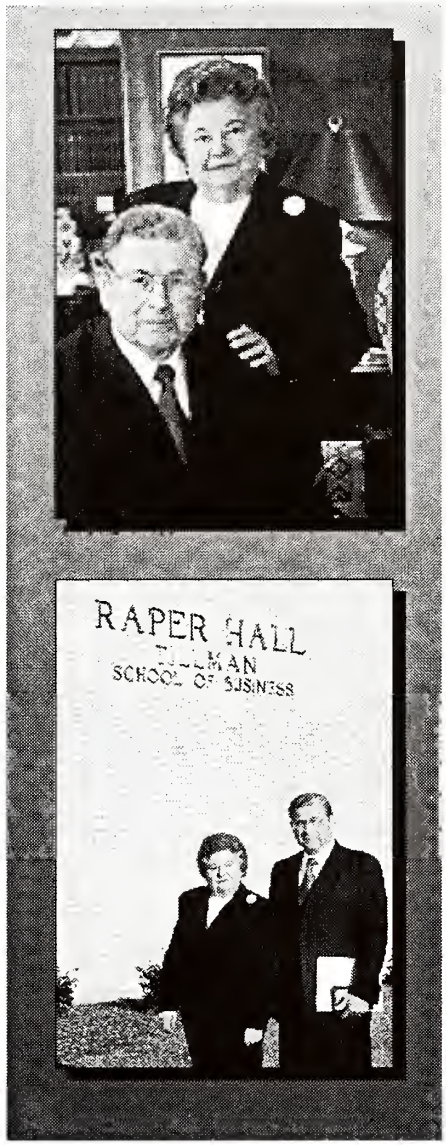
Burkette and Rose Raper were driving along Highway 117, headed home. As they passed Mount Olive College, Mrs. Raper turned to her husband. "Burkette, there's your life. You put 50 years into it," she said. She was right, he says today.

It was a journey filled with victories and defeats. But now, looking back, he says, it was the right choice to listen to his heart and to believe. "I don't know anything else I'd have rather done with my life," he said.

When Dr. Burkette Raper was appointed president of Mount Olive College in 1954 at age 26, he was the youngest college president in the nation. When he retired in 1995, he was the longest-tenured president in the country.

At his family's urging, he went so far as to purchase a house in Morehead City, but he has yet to move there. Instead, he has continued to work in a variety of areas at the college—from director of planned giving to his latest venture, begun in 2006, working with the N.C. Foundation for Christian Ministries, establishing scholarship funds for students preparing for the ministry.

Now 80, he maintains an office at the college and remains active, regularly taking long walks as weather permits. Not one to squander a moment, Raper said he has never been bothered with the concept of what to do with his time. "I don't like to hear people talk about killing time or wasting time," he said. But that is not to say he started out with any kind of road map. He says he has simply tried to live to the best of his ability, blessed by guidance and direction received along the way. "It's like driving an automobile at night. If you keep the lights on, you can see all down the road, all the hills and all the curves that are ahead. Out front, (the light) will always go before you so that by the time you approach the hills and curves, the light's already there," he said. "I have never gone to a dark spot. There's always been light that would lead to the next part of the journey." That light could have been snuffed out early on, if he had chosen to remain a victim of circumstances.



The oldest of four children, Raper was 8 years old when his father died. That was back in the Depression-era, 1936, a time when options were limited. "My father was a tenant farmer, so when he passed away, we didn't have a home," he said. In those days, orphanages were for children who had lost one or both parents. "Our mother placed us there," he said of the institution near Wilson. Only three of the four went because the baby, at 14 months, was too young. He went to live with a grandmother.

Although he grew up in the orphanage, Raper still considered himself lucky. He remembered the lessons his mother taught him—as a visitor. "She came to see us very often at the home, and she would always tell us before she would leave, 'I will never have anything to leave you. I have placed you here because I wanted you to get an education and so you would be able to care for yourself,'" he said. "She emphasized the value of an education." He never planned to go to college. So when the opportunity came his senior year of high school, he couldn't pass it up. "I had a scholarship at Duke that covered my undergraduate program and also my divinity school program," he said. When he walked out of the orphanage, he carried everything he owned in one suitcase, plus $50 in cash, $300 in a loan, he said. "At the time I finished high school, I had never seen the ocean, had never seen the mountains, had never been farther than Durham. I had never been out of the state," he said. "I went straight from the orphanage to Duke and it was a new world, and it opened to me a vision of the world and a vision of life that I had never had before."

He became an ordained minister, at one point serving four churches each month, traveling by bus to a different one each weekend. One of those was in Jones County, a rural church near Trenton. It was there he met his wife. "In all those rural churches there would be one or two homes that would be the hospitality center, and they would invite the minister in for meals and in my case, overnight," he said. "The family was Rom Mallard, a farm family."

As his education neared completion, he found himself at a crossroads for the next chapter of his life. "I never moved my books, my clothes, out of the dorm," he said. "It was my home." As his June 1948 graduation approached, it was during one of his weekends at the Mallard home that Raper was questioned about his future plans. "It would be the first summer I would have been out. I hadn't given it much thought," he said. "(Mallard) said, 'That room you have been staying in upstairs is yours."

Rose Mallard, a pianist at the church, was the eldest daughter. "That's a good place to find a wife," Raper says now, a smile spreading across his face. "It was just a relationship that naturally developed." The couple had been married only three weeks, and Raper was preparing to return to Duke Divinity for his final semester, when the N.C. State Convention of Original Free Will Baptists voted to establish what would become Mount Olive College. It was 1951.

By the time he graduated from seminary the following year, he was serving as pastor of Hull Road FWB Church near Snow Hill. Preparations were also being made for the college opening. Raper had worked closely with the denomination, serving as promotional director. At the time, he was also the only Free Will Baptist minister in the state with a divinity school education. When he received the invitation to become president, one simple factor motivated him, he says—"I felt this was something I owed back. I felt that I could not have accepted all the advantages and provisions that I'd received and not turn back and help the church," he said. "For me, it was a divine imperative—this was what I should do and I did do it, reluctantly." The initial hesitation came not only from his humble upbringing, but because he had already made a commitment to Hull Road to continue as its pastor. The church released him from some of his obligation, allowing his family to remain in the parsonage and cutting back on his duties there.

The grassroots effort to acquire a Free Will Baptist-affiliated college was not overwhelmingly popular, Raper said. Even though the denomination is the third oldest religious body in North Carolina, particularly strong in the eastern part of the state, at the time education was not even on its long list of priorities. "The church was never involved very much in educational programs," he said. Mount Olive was chosen for one simple reason—its former grammar school building was on the market. "It was a very narrow vote, very controversial at that time, whether or not the Free Will Baptist church could establish and maintain a credible educational institution," Raper said. Would education be a wise investment? Raper said at the outset, it might not have appeared so. "The first year, we had to renovate the building (that) had been empty for two years," he said. "It was very run down. Windows were broken. Floors sagged. The roof leaked. It had been built in about 1901, right at the turn of the century." It also had a wooden fire escape on the second floor that was decaying. A metal fire escape replaced that, at a price tag of $750, Raper recalled. "We were on a 10-year plan and had to raise the money for that building," he said.

Initial arrangements to buy the building were made with the county, but there was a provision from one of the owners that if it ever ceased to be used as a public school, it would be returned to the family's heirs. "We had raised $1,800 before I came, which we got up to $2,000," Raper said. "The board agreed to loan $2,000 because they had to have $4,000 as a down payment." So scarce were funds that for the first year, Raper did not draw a salary. His first tasks were to recruit a faculty, then students, followed by efforts with the state to get the school accredited.

Reflecting now over the college's 50-year history, Raper says he always chose to focus "not on what the college was but what I thought it could become." His vision was steady, even when the college consisted of a dilapidated school building in downtown Mount Olive and a wide-open field on farmland where U.S. 117 now runs. "I felt like if we could ever get a campus that looked like a college, that that would give us a foundation on which to build," he said. "I'd envisioned in time that we could become a four-year college." Today, the college reflects that original 1960s master plan. "At one end, student life—dormitories, dining rooms, athletics, student activities. At the other end, academic buildings, the library," he said. "In the middle of those two was the chapel, which was the symbol of the Christian faith, and the unifying factor for the living and learning. And that's been the heartbeat of the development of the college." The first two buildings, the Henderson building and the first dorm complex, went up in 1965.

While the college has achieved four-year status and expanded to six locations, there is still more to come, Raper said, but not just in the form of new facilities or additional locations. "I think the future of the college rests in the quality and character of its educational program ... in the kind of education you provide for students."

A lot has changed over the college's 50 years—especially as it relates to its Free Will Baptist parentage. "Now this college receives more support from the Free Will Baptist Church than for any other program in the denomination," Raper said. "Here's a church of 35,000

people giving the college $1 million a year...and gave them that pretty consistently for the past few years."

Raper said he has not made his journey alone. He credits his wife with keeping the faith and the family going. "I have never made a major decision out here without discussing it with her and having her support. She used to tell people that she had a family; I had a college," he said with an easy laugh. "I would be gone not only working out here during the week but I would be gone almost every Sunday visiting churches, seeking good will and support for the school. She would be home with the children." All the while, he said, Mrs. Raper was steady and supportive. "In many ways, she has carried a heavier load than I did," he said.

Together they raised six children—Elizabeth Hood, a nurse at Wayne Memorial Hospital; son Burke of Raleigh, organist at New Hope Baptist Church; Laura Buddin of Myrtle Beach, a board-certified mathematician; Kristie Bailey, wife of Gary, pastor of Stoney Creek Free Will Baptist Church on the outskirts of Goldsboro; and Olivia Best, part-time teacher in Faison. Son Stephen is deceased.

While the journey might have been challenging and tiring at times, Raper shrugs off credit for staying at the helm. He knew it was never a sinking ship. "During the first 35 years, there was no choice. It was like being in a boat, and it could have gone down Niagara Falls if it got caught in the current. There was never a stopping point, there was no place to get off." He stayed, he said, because he wanted to, turning down a job offer in Washington, D.C., to become national director of independent junior colleges, responsible for all private and public two-year colleges. It is a decision he has not regretted—even now after more than five decades. "It's been a very satisfying experience," he said. He has lived a life, he said, that has made him realize that dreams come true with hard work and faith — and that a legacy comes from making a difference in someone else's life. "The only thing you do with your life is use it, and you have to choose how you're going to use it," he said. "You have to choose what you're going to invest it in, and I have chosen the things that I thought had the most meaning, value and what I thought would live longer than I would."

Memorials Remind Us

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

Memorial Day was originally referred to as Decoration Day. Began in May of 1868, it was set aside as a day to remember those who died for our country during the Civil War by placing flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. Ultimately, with the event of other wars, it became a national holiday when Congress passed the National Holiday Act of 1971, setting aside a three-day weekend, culminating on the last Monday in May. (It was previously observed on May 30.)

Reflections

This year's Memorial Day impressed me more than any other. I found the time to watch the observances at Arlington National Cemetery and the one held near the Capitol in Washington. On Monday morning, I drove to Greenville, NC and spent some time at the service held at the town commons. I first spoke to Congressman Walter Jones who participated in the ceremonies and then to several veterans who were present. We owe them our deep respect and gratitude. In all this, however, there is a sense of sadness in remembering the thousands who paid the ultimate price to preserve our freedoms. They must never be forgotten, and that's the purpose for our memorials of stone and our memorial services and observances.

Last December, along with my wife, her two brothers, and a sister-in-law, I visited the World War II Memorial in Washington. It is indeed a great tribute to those who served in that war and those who grasped the vision of such a memorial (although long over due).

Just as the twelve stones from the Jordan River were to remind the children of Israel and other generations of their miraculous crossing of Jordan and their entrance into the land God had promised, so do our memorials remind of His great blessings and freedoms.

"...When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean these stones? Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this river on dry land" (Joshua 4:21–22). Memorials remind us of our past. They serve a lasting purpose. Memories are preserved. In visiting them we are reminded from whence we came.

Serve the Lord on Purpose: The Reverend Roy T. Clifton

April 16, 1941–October 7, 2007

submitted by Janet L. Warren

How do you go about telling others just how important one life has been to you? My life was touched by this very special pastor, the Rev. Roy T. Clifton. I have never had the opportunity to have a pastor quite like him. I respected and valued his opinions and support. He always appreciated what each one did for him and for all the work that was done at St. Paul FWB Church. He was always there. Always, no matter what time, or how tired he was, he always had time for each of us and our families, even going above the call to be there for our extended families on occasions. It would immediately give you such a sense of peace and comfort just to see him and that smile he always carried with him. Just by being there he made each situation better. What a wonderful servant he was. Our hearts have been heavy since he left but I know that his Homecoming had to be an awesome experience.

As we entered the church after his death I think each one of us felt the void that was there. He was always there to welcome us at Sunday School and then led us the rest of the way. He gave us more guidance and direction than we even realized. We have been blessed by having good leaders who have carried on.

"Serve the Lord on purpose." That was what Mr. Roy told us each Sunday as we got ready to leave for the week. What a challenge for each of us. For 13 years we were truly blessed to have a man of God who preached God's Word and instilled in us messages that gave us insight, courage, and strength to go out and "Serve the Lord on purpose." He was so much more than our pastor—he was our friend and part of our family. His family became part of our family and our families became part of his. We are thankful for the time that his family shared him with us and for all the sacrifices that were made on our behalf. I know my life was definitely made better by having known him. As the weeks and months go by since his death we are reminded of how much he did for us and all the things he prepared us for. Life is full of challenges, what matters is whether or not you are prepared for what lies ahead. We have been through many difficult days, missing him, his presence, and his guidance.

During each week we talked at least once, but many times more. He was a good listener and such a good friend who was always concerned about my life, my family, and our church family. I can't begin to tell you about all the times that he was there for me and my family—I don't think he missed a thing. He made so many sacrifices, all for each of us, because that was his calling in life. He shared my good times, my bad times, and all the times between. I always appreciated his honesty and sincerity. He laughed with me, cried with me, prayed with me, celebrated with me, and mourned with me. He always encouraged me to serve the Lord on purpose. My life has been enriched for having known him. I miss the talks, the hugs, the smiles, and his presence in my life. Time goes on and so will we, but we are so thankful for this wonderful man of God. What a wonderful homecoming it must have been when Jesus opened His arms and said, "Welcome home, my good and faithful servant."

Mr. Roy was a man of many talents. He was ordained into the ministry on February 10, 1971. He pastored four churches: West Clinton Church, Mount Zion Church, Sherron Acres Church, Mount Zion Church for a second time, and St. Paul Church. He continued his education at the Carolina Bible Institute and Seminary, where he earned an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree, a graduate of theology degree, and a master's degree in theology. He served on the Board of Ordination of both the Western and Cape Fear Conferences of Original Free Will Baptists. He was president of The Fellowship of Conservative Free Will Baptists. He also served on the executive committee and was the treasurer for the ministry of Wheels on Fire for Christ. He was chairman of the board of the Carolina Bible Institute and Seminary, where he also was the professor of Pastoral Studies. He loved teaching and preaching the Word

of God. He also enjoyed hunting and playing sports and was also an accomplished carpenter. He loved playing golf with Brothers Buddy Rogerson and Rudy Owens. As Brother Buddy said, "We were like the Three Musketeers, all for one (Jesus) and one for all." He also said Mr. Roy was a man of integrity, possessing a calm and peaceable spirit, and having a zeal for the Lord, tempered with the wisdom of God. Family members admired Brother Roy for his unshakeable belief and faith in the inspired, inerrant, infallible, indestructible, immutable, incorruptible, and indivisible Word of God. Roy always stood on the Word of God. Brother Rudy said that he could tell us many wonderful things about Brother Roy but Mr. Roy would not like that; instead, he would rather tell us about the Savior he followed. Roy Clifton believed God's Word and was totally inspired by it. He would bend over backwards to accommodate your beliefs, but don't ask him to compromise God's Word. Roy preached the Word, taught the Word, and lived the Word of God.

How do you eulogize someone who has touched so many lives and brought so many lives to Christ? As each word was spoken, each thought shared we felt the loss and the pain but also the joy and the thankfulness because he had been a part of our lives.

When you talk about his life, it is easy to see that he was a family man. What a special family he had in his beloved wife, Peggy, sons and daughter-in-laws, Jeffrey and Donna, Gene and Amy, and his grandsons Thomas, Tyler, and Nathan. He was so proud of his family, and his grandchildren were the apples of his eye. As evident through his stories, time spent with each one was precious to him. We enjoyed the stories he shared with us through the pulpit and at various functions. You could see that sparkle in his eye and the love in his voice as he spoke of each of them. He was blessed to have three sisters and four brothers along with their spouses who also each became a part of our lives because he spoke of them so often. Yes, Mr. Roy had a special love for his family. We came to know and love them also.

Brother Rudy said that Mr. Roy desired in his life to fulfill God's call. In doing this he gave himself to his family, to his church, to the ministry, and to the Lord. Mr. Roy gave his life, not for the Lord, but to the Lord. Mr. Roy faithfully served his Lord and now, has been glorified in the Lord.

As taken from a very special song, the words are so true and a tribute to the life that he led. One by one they came, far as the eye could see, each life somehow touched by your generosity. Little things that you had done, sacrifices made, unnoticed on this earth, in Heaven now proclaimed. As Jesus took your hand and you stood before the Lord, He said, "My child look around you, for great is your reward." "Thank you for giving to the Lord. I am a life that was changed. Thank you for giving to the Lord. I am so glad you gave."

Lives have been made the better because of him. May we remember the things that he instilled in us and truly "serve the Lord on purpose."

Many Blows Will Break the Stone

(*An Old Welsh Proverb*)

Many Christians have unpleasant memories of overly long, overly dramatic invitation hymns being sung over and over again while pleading, sometimes ranting ministers roamed the church aisles, staring down sinners until they either made their way to the altar for confession or left the building vowing never to go to church again. Few believed this was very effective, for many "new converts" never returned and few became active Christians.

In this age of computers, fast-forward videos and stopwatch activities, some ministers have done a complete turn around and now inform the congregation they will simply get one chance during the first and last verse of the invitation hymn to move from the pew to the altar at the end of worship services. That is just what some people want to hear. It lets them know that if they can hold back sixty seconds or so, they will be home free.

Brittle and unyielding hearts may belong to those who have repressed the calling of the Holy Spirit until no amount of reading the Word, hearing sermons or singing songs can prick the shell that surrounds them.

However, sometimes when the Spirit beckons obstinate hearts, music can penetrate their defenses. It softens and mellows callouses and shields that have been built by years of skepticism and denial. The invitational music after sermons can help lift and peel away the armor of scales piece by piece as each verse is played and sung.

Tender hearts can be easily moved and will yield quickly to an invitation to accept Jesus as a personal Savior. People with this type of heart are more likely to immediately profess their need to be saved and their desire to establish a positive, more lasting relationship with the Lord. Yet, even they can be reserved and shy about moving from the safety of the pew to stand alone

before God and the congregation and admit they are sinners with a need for the soul cleansing grace of the Lamb.

Neither the old ways of begging and pleading, nor the new way of rushing are totally wrong. Perhaps a better way would be to blend the best features of both into a version that would entice the reluctant and/or reserved people who truly want to publicly profess their acceptance of a loving Savior to move forward.

The encouragement of hearing beautifully sung invitational hymns after God draws people through the preaching of the Word can stimulate some to turn their back on the secular world and profess Christianity. And, yes, it may take more than the first and last verse to thaw frozen hearts and release those paralyzed legs.

We need time to get a running start to jump a wide ditch and often it takes more than one effort. We need to judge the distance it will take to get the momentum to do it, and certain factors determine whether we can even do it at all. Given time and persistence, many can and will jump the ditch. The same thing applies to the decision to jump from the secular and worldly life into one that exemplifies Christianity. It can be done.

On the third or fourth verses of songs such as "Just as I Am," "I Surrender All," "Only Trust Him," and numerous others, someone may have time to build up the courage to come forward. Let's give them the opportunity. The time saved by cutting invitation hymns short will look like nothing in eternity.

If "many blows will break the stone" (an old Welsh Proverb), perhaps another verse or two of gentle persuasive music will help create a new heart, filled with the Holy Spirit, if handled well by an empathetic pastor, and a loving congregation (not an old proverb, just a view from the pew by Peggy Bailey).

JESUS KNOCKS

by Celia Hales

Surely younger people will find this memory hard to fathom, but when I was a child in the fifties, the Ayden Free Will Baptist Church had no air conditioning in the long hot summers of eastern North Carolina. What the church did have were paper fans, held firm in the hand by a wooden stick, which made a breeze of cardboard very inviting. On the back of these fans was an advertisement for a local funeral home, but it is the front of one particular fan that held my attention. Of course, the pictures differed on the various fans, but my favorite showed a beautiful picture of Jesus as He is always depicted in a lovely robe with sandals on His feet.

In this picture Jesus stands before a massive wooden door, and He is knocking on the door with His ear inclined for signs of life on the other side of the door. What is significant is that there is absolutely no door knob to be seen on the door.

Long ago, too long to remember when or where, I heard that this picture is important because we, who are on the other side of the door, must open from within our hearts to let Jesus in. If we do not do so, He has no means of entry at all.

The fan piqued my interest for a long while. I remember gazing for uninterrupted minutes as I sought in my childish way to understand what this picture meant, what this meant about my salvation (though I was not old enough to call it that).

Now, many years later, I am perhaps still as unsure of the ultimate meaning in that picture for me personally. There are depths here that require further thinking. It is not enough to say that we must be the ones to act in letting Jesus into our hearts. He is actually so respectful of our free will that He will never try to force His way into our lives. He waits and knocks, I think, repeatedly. What joy for Him and heights of joy for us when we open that door of our hearts from the inside! Surely, there are few blessings on Earth more wonderful.

2008 NCAA Division II Baseball National Champions

Mount Olive College Trojan Baseball Team

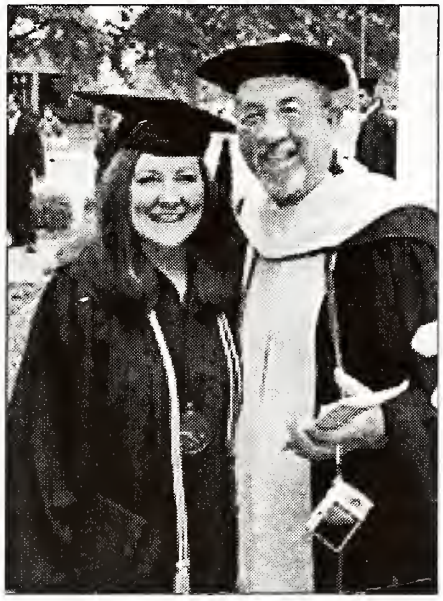
"When I took this job 22 years ago, people asked me why. I said I didn't know. Today, I know why." These are the words that Trojan head baseball coach, Carl Lancaster, spoke to a cheering audience of more than a thousand fans, who attended the homecoming festivities for the Mount Olive College baseball team.

The Trojans won the 2008 NCAA Division II Baseball National Championship on Saturday, May 31. The celebration was sponsored by the Town of Mount Olive, the Mount Olive Chamber of Commerce, and Mount Olive College.

The national championship is the first in school history for any Mount Olive athletics team. Mount Olive captured its first-ever national championship in any sport with a 6–2 victory over Ouachita Baptist (Arkansas) in the title game of the 2008 NCAA Division II Baseball National Finals at Sauget, Illinois. The Trojans finished the season with a 58–6 record, including a perfect 4–0 mark at the National Finals.

Trojan players and coaches have been appreciative and in awe of the attention they've received. Senior shortstop David Cooper spoke on the players' behalf. "The reception at the airport yesterday and the turnout here is just overwhelming," said Cooper, also an All-Tournament selection at the National Finals. "We were spending a good part of the day signing baseballs to give away and it made us smile."

"It's still very surreal," said freshman Joseph Westbrook, who hit his first collegiate home run in the second round of the National Finals. "You couldn't ask for a better crowd. It really means a lot."

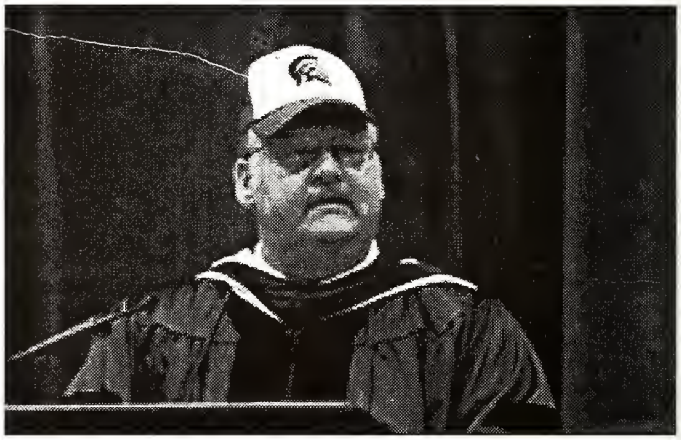


365 LIVES TRANSFORMED!

Following the commencement worship service and lunch at Mount Olive College, 365 graduating seniors included 149 from the Mount Olive campus; 30 from the Goldsboro location; 55 from the New Bern location; 44 from the Research Triangle Park location; 51 from the Washington location; and 36 from the Wilmington location; processed into George and Annie Dail Kornegay Arena.

The Reverend Michael Barnhill, donning a Trojan baseball cap, shared the good news of the College's baseball team being number one in the nation! But even this news paled in comparison to the excitement of over 365 students whose lives have been transformed because of their educational experience at MOC.

"Transforming Education—Transforming Lives, these words are a distillation of the mission of Mount Olive College," Barnes stated. "As you graduate today, you can be proud that our alma mater is working hard at, and achieving much toward that mission."



Barnes went on to note that higher education has often been criticized as an instrument of elitism.

"However, Mount Olive College has been guided by leaders who promoted accessibility to excellent higher education for all those who are qualified and motivated. Our College refused to conform to academic or geographical limitations, but, instead, transformed itself into a regional four-year college serving over five thousand students from many states and foreign countries. MOC continues to advance accessibility hand in hand with academic excellence."

Four special honors were presented during graduation. Chief Master Sergeant Kathleen M. Parrish, a nontraditional student, was recognized as the recipient of the $1000 Lora W. and Maurice H. King Award. Michael "Ryan" Fields received the $1000 Martin Award, given in honor of Lorelle F. Martin, professor emerita, who taught science at Mount Olive College from 1957 to 1987. Samantha Mitchell received the $3000 Dr. Thomas R. Morris Award for Academic Excellence, given to the baccalaureate graduate who best exemplifies serious academic pursuit and love and breadth of learning. Dr. Kathy T. Best received the $4,000 Dr. Thomas R. Morris Award for Excellence in Teaching at Mount Olive College.

The College's concert choir and the Mount Olive College Honors Commencement Band performed special music, and Barbara Harper, a graduating senior, sang a solo, "All The Glory Belongs to Jesus."

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

***Commencement 1** (top):*
Heather McPherson, graduate from Beaverdam OFWB Church, Pee Dee Association, poses with teacher, Dr. Jake Brown, professor in the Teacher Education Program.

***Commencement 2** (above left):*
The MOC campus was filled with happy families and graduates!

***Commencement 3** (above right):*
The Reverend Michael Barnhill donned a Trojan's Baseball cap!

MOC GRADUATION WORSHIP SERVICE

A bright and breezy day in Mount Olive, the May 10 Commencement Events started off with the traditional morning worship service held in the Southern Bank Auditorium of W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper Hall. The Reverend E. S. "Buddy" Sasser, Director of Convention Services for the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, presented the keynote message and each student received a personal Bible from Dr. Byrd, president of Mount Olive College. The inspirational sermon, as given by Mr. Sasser, is presented in its entirety on the bottom of this page.

(L-R) Luis Miranda, class of 2008; the Rev. Timothy Dortch, class of 2008; the Rev. E. S. "Buddy" Sasser, Director of Convention Services, OFWB Convention; Dr. Greg Day, MOC Campus Minister; and Kelli Kosuda, class of 2011.

(Writer's note: The following is a written account of the message given at the 2008 Mount Olive College Commencement Worship Service on May 10. The format used during the actual delivery came from a prepared outline; therefore, this should be considered a synopsis of the message, using my limited memory to access the main body of the presentation. Thanks again MOC for this honor. – Buddy Sasser)

"I'm Free"

John 8:32: *"You shall know the truth and the truth will set you free."*
John 14:6a: *"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life…."*

Dr. and Mrs. Byrd, Dr. Raper, Chaplain Day, distinguished members of the faculty and staff, members of the Board of Trustees, parents, friends, and honored members of the 2008 graduating class…

I have sat where you sit and have felt what you feel. I have experienced the joy of a task completed and the fear of an unknown tomorrow. Three times I have stood in amazement at what I had accomplished educationally. The first came in 1969 when I graduated 10th in my high school class. Little did it matter that there were only 33 in the class. Then in 1971, at what was then Mount Olive Junior College, and again in 1973 at what is now Oakland City University in Indiana, I strolled aimlessly across the platform to receive my degrees. Unlike some of you, I did not graduate Magna or Summa Cum Laude; but, like most of you I graduated Thank the Laude! I know that is an old laugh, but it rang very true to me.

I have not come here today to light the fire to your future or to extinguish your fears and doubts. Rather, I come as a simple country preacher to let you know that because of where you live and because of the Christ you are called to serve, you are stepping into your tomorrow completely FREE—free to become, to pursue, to experience, to choose, to grow, and free to continue learning. Until now your education has been mandated by others. Beginning with this moment your education becomes voluntary. What you will learn will be determined by how you choose to live—in fear or in freedom. Years ago I chose to live in freedom, simply because I could. I am a free man for two very important reasons.

1. I live in America

…and in spite of her many faults and failures, she is still the greatest country in the world, and we are privileged to be her citizens.

2. I am a Christian

…and in spite of my many faults and failures, I am privileged to serve the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus the Christ, the Savior of my soul.

Some of you are still in bondage, even though you live in a free country. Those chains are generally self-imposed with no one to blame but self. You may be a Christian, but you still are held captive by your own choices. It is my prayer today that many of you will be set free from the chains that tie you to a life of drudgery and dread, fear and doubt.

What does it mean to be free in America? Because I am free:

1. I can live as I please.

My lifestyle may not be right, popular or proper…or I may choose to honor God and serve my fellow man. I have the freedom to make that choice, realizing the consequences of my decision.

2. I can choose my friends.
Often friendships are based on who will do more for me, or who will listen to me, or who will accept me as I am. Friendships can bring us harm physically, emotionally, and spiritually if we choose to hang with the wrong crowd. Friends can also be a source of comfort and companionship, joy and laughter. The choice is up to me.

3. I can choose my job, my hobbies, and my ways of finding pleasure.
It is up to me to decide what I want out of life and how I can go about finding it.

4. I am not confined to one way of thinking or one way of achieving my goals in life.
I can look at each situation independently and decide which avenue to take to accomplish the best for the moment. Living in America gives me the freedom to do so.

5. I can change my mind...and my choices.
I don't always have to abide by the thoughts of others. I am an independent person. If I don't like the way my life is going, I can change it. But I must again be willing to accept the consequences for my own decisions.

6. I can move beyond the barriers of day to day routine.
Routines are valuable in some cases, such as maintaining your car, becoming physically fit, developing a proper golf swing, or spending quality time with God and family. But often our day to day routine puts our life into a rut. We avoid change because we aren't comfortable with the feel of something new...like the first few days in a new pair of shoes. My freedom, and a little intestinal fortitude, will help me move beyond those feelings.

This freedom does not come without a tremendous price. Your time here and wisdom you have gained have been made possible by the countless thousands of men and women who have served our country, often making the ultimate sacrifice, thereby assuring that our way of life and the freedom we enjoy will continue. The reason America has survived is not because of the "always proper" choices her leaders and citizens have made, but because brave men and women have given everything to assure the right to make those choices.

What does it mean to be free as a Christian? Because I am free:

1. I can choose the place and method of worship that best fits my needs and desires.
Not everyone likes the same style of worship, and we have a variety from which to choose.

a) The very formal, liturgical, litany reading, robe-wearing style

b) The very loose, high-energy, "shake-me-up-God!" style

c) The traditional, soft-impact, three hymns and a prayer, easy listening style

d) The contemporary, lift-your-hands, praise and worship style

e) A mixture of these and others

Guess what? God endures and enjoys them all. He created worship as one of the ways He receives from us, and each of us has our unique way of "making a joyful noise."

2. I can choose the way I express my love to God.
Singing, preaching, teaching, proper dancing (Yes, I said that. Reference Psalm 149:3; 150:4; Ecclesiastes 3:4 and others), witnessing, giving, showing love, acts of service, etc. are all expressions of my love for God.

3. I can cast my vision for my own future
...and then rely on God to guide me. I can also seek the leadership of other believers to help me move forward in accomplishing my goals.

4. I can freely offer my help and service to others.
As a Christian, I am expected to give of myself to assist others, even when it is not convenient to do so. I am to put God first, others second, and myself last.

5. I can accept the differences of others
...knowing that I must stand before God to answer for myself and no one else, I fully realize that I do not always believe as others do. If their lives do not include Jesus Christ, then I am obligated by my relationship with the Savior to share His love with them. If they are Christian, then I must also recognize that their understanding of God and faith commitment to Him may not be the same as mine, and I must allow them to know God at their own level.

This spiritual freedom, like national freedom, comes with a very big price tag. Jesus Christ gave His life that we could be free. He called Himself "the Truth" and the only way to God (John 14:6). In giving His life, He was giving to each of us the opportunity to enjoy the abundant living He describes in John 10:10.

Some Christians are still in spiritual bondage. You are unable, or unwilling, to see the great variety of life God has provided. Each Christian represents a different segment of the family of God. Because I am free, I have chosen to enjoy, trust, and believe the people God has put into my life. I know that I will often suffer heartaches as some people fail to meet my expectations, as will they when I fail to meet their requirements. But I can and will choose to move beyond my feelings, to look for and expect better things from other people...and from myself. **I can do this because I'm free**! May your understanding of God and country bring you life-changing freedom.

HEART AND SOUL

For Bruce Elliot and Debby Hines Gray, doing their part to contribute to Mount Olive College is a delight. "Supporting our denominational enterprises [ministries] is what we're supposed to do!" they both smiled. "I've been in Winterville FWB Church all my life and that's how I was raised," explained Debby. "My parents, Pittman and Louise Hines, set a great example for me as givers to MOC. Now, it's our turn to do our part to help train future pastors and leaders in this unique environment we call MOC!"

They graduated together in 1971, just a few weeks short of their wedding day. "I finished college in three years so that I could 'catch up' with him," said Debby. Now this couple has been married 36 years, and their own child had the unique privilege of studying at MOC. "Our daughter, Leslie Gray Bunch attended MOC for two years, continued her education at PCC and ECU," remarked Debby. Leslie is married to Jason Bunch and they have two sons, Seth (seven) and Sean (two). They also attend Winterville FWB Church.

Bruce and Debby are active members of their church, where they teach Sunday School, sing in the choir, and work with the church's senior ministry, Three Score and More, which according to Debby, "has been a real blessing." Raised in the Winterville area, the Gray's lived there until 1995. Now they currently reside in their 'retirement home' at Ayden Golf and Country Club.

Mr. Gray enjoys golfing, while Mrs. Gray's hobbies include genealogy. She loves to visit the FWB Archives on the MOC campus. "Moye Library has a historical wealth of information and pictures from the beginning of our denomination and its pastors," she exclaimed. "I have spent hours researching family history in the wonderful old documents housed there."

Their family tradition of giving back has now made Bruce and Debby Gray the 500th member of the Mount Olive College Society, an elite group of people who consistently support the College and its mission. When asked what the College meant to them, the Grays answered, "It means special friends—like Jean Ackiss, Dianne Riley, and David Hines. MOC means education and leadership with a Christian twist! But most of all, it is the heart and soul of an evolving FWB denomination!"

Photo Caption:

Standing with Jean Ackiss (left), director of church support, Debby and Bruce Gray are sporting their very own MOC Society pin and tie.

WALLACE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED AT MOC

The daughters of Leland Jackson and Vitishie King Wallace have established an endowed scholarship at Mount Olive College in memory of their father and in honor of their mother. Because of their Christian faith and example, this scholarship will help qualified applicants seeking degrees in the ministry, Christian education or music ministry.

As residents of Duplin County and members of Snow Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace have been active in church activities, holding various offices and positions. Both served as Sunday School teachers and choir members for many years. Mr. Wallace served as Sunday School superintendent and Free Will Baptist League superintendent on the local and district level. He served as a trustee, deacon board member, and chairman of the deacon board for many years. Mrs. Wallace worked many years in Bible schools and also assisted as a substitute pianist for church and Sunday School.

Their children, Gloria Wallace Edwards and Cathy Wallace Crumpler, graduated from Mount Olive College as well as their sons-in-law, George Edwards and the Reverend Joe Crumpler. Their only

grandchild, Sarah Crumpler, is also a graduate of Mount Olive College. Many of their nieces and nephews attended Mount Olive College and some have entered the ministry and other church related fields.

Mrs. Wallace is a native of Onslow County and attended Folkstone Original Free Will Baptist Church until she married Leland Wallace in August of 1948. She was a devoted wife and is a supportive mother who guides her children by example. Currently, she attends Pearsall Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church in Kenansville where her son-in-law pastors.

Mr. Wallace, a Duplin County native, was a World War II Veteran, a retired farmer, owner of his own septic tank installation service, and a patent inventor. He died January 12, 2007 after a brief illness, which has left a tremendous void in his family's hearts. Because of their love of true worship and their connection to the college, the children felt their parents would be best remembered and honored in this way.

"Gifts made to this endowment would please our parents so students could continue to be prepared for the Christian service they held dear," Gloria stated.

Original Free Will Baptist students who demonstrate evidence of good character and a commitment to Christian service may apply for the funds when the scholarship becomes fully established. Anyone wishing to contribute to the endowment may do so by contacting the Office of Planned Giving at Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson St., Mt. Olive, NC 28365.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

July

Summer School Opportunities at Mount Olive College:

Summer Session C online begins July 14, 2008. Contact <admissions@moc.edu> or call (800) 653-0854 for admissions and enrollment information. Visiting students are invited to spend their summer at MOC! Complete the free online application at <www.moc.edu>.

Space Available:

Space is available in residence halls and for commuters for the 2008 fall semester at Mount Olive College. First time college attendees and college transfers can apply online at <www.moc.edu> and arrange a campus tour by contacting <admissions@moc.edu> or by calling (800) 653-0854.

College Transfer Advising Day:

July 14 has been set for College Transfer Advising Day. All college transfers who have not already toured the campus and completed registration are invited to attend. Contact Tim Woodard at <twoodard@moc.edu> or call (800) 653-0854.

New Programs

Upcoming Programs Being Offered at JCC

Since 2006 Mount Olive College has been partnering with Johnston Community College to offer accelerated one-night-a-week programs leading to a Bachelor of Science degree. The two programs currently being offered under the agreement are the Management and Organizational Development (MOD) program and the Health Care Management (HCM) program. Both programs are an innovative approach to education that gives working adults with about two years of college credits the opportunity to complete their degree while continuing their employment.

The next Management and Organizational Development program is slated to begin on August 28. The next Health Care Management program at JCC is scheduled to begin on September 22. Classes are limited to 25 students. Vice President for Enrollment Dr. Barbara Kornegay says the College may begin offering its Early Childhood Education program at JCC as early as this fall if there is enough expressed interest. For more information about either the MOD or HCM programs offered by Mount Olive College at Johnston Community College, or to express interest in the Early Childhood Education program, contact Allison Sullivan, director of evening college admissions at Mount Olive College, at (800) 653-0854 or email <asullivan@moc.edu>.

ASHLEY E. TALKS ABOUT MOC

According to Ashley Edwards, "MOC are the only letters you need to remember when filling out a college application!"

M—Motto

I love our motto because it is so true: "Transforming Lives." I can honestly say that MOC has done that with me! I think it is a wonderful place because so many people care about you! Your friends, your teachers, your mentors, staff members, faculty and staff you don't even know, they are all so friendly and fun! That's rare for a college campus.

My experience so far has been exciting and amazing! There is something to do every night of the week! If you get involved on campus your life will be changed forever! This past year I was the Campus Activities Board marketing director, the Undergraduate Alumni Association President, a Residence Life Advisor, Residence Life Representative in SGA, a singer in the MOC Free Spirit group, and a member of the Mount Olive College Concert Choir! And I have met so many students and new friends from being involved. I hope that one day I will have that same positive impact on future students.

O—Opportunity

I chose MOC over every other institution because of the way it was based around God and the opportunity it gave me to share my faith with others! I heard about the College through my friends, church, and family. My mother, Teresa Kirby, attended and graduated from Mount Olive College.

As a 2005 graduate of James B. Hunt High School in Wilson, I was eager to enroll at MOC for the fall semester. I now live in Lucama, NC and after I graduate in 2010 with a degree in Recreational Therapy, I hope to get a career with the Special Population, helping them live a full and fun life! I will continue to stay involved, and be active in MOC history, especially after paying off some loans. Then I hope to give back to the College so I can make a difference in other students' lives!

Ashley Edwards (left) accepts the Alumni Association's gift, and stands with her mother, Teresa Kirby, who was on campus to celebrate her 25th college reunion.

Helping people and seeing the world are two of my biggest ambitions. Last semester I had the privilege of accepting a check from the Mount Olive College Alumni Association for over a million dollars donated for student scholarships. Also, as the current President of the UAA, I received the 'Undergraduate Alumni of the Year Award' presented by Ms. Dianne Riley at our annual awards day.

C—Connecting

Most students do not understand the FWB scholarship awarded to them, or they do not have any connections to their giver, but I do. I get to see the people, almost every day, the people that give and allow me to further my education! That is such a blessing! I have been attending Daniel's Chapel FWB Church in Wilson, for about 2 years now. I am involved in a number of church activities such as the choir, keeping the nursery, Vacation Bible School, a mission trip to Kentucky, and The Lighthouse.

I attend a college affiliated with my church so that I can remember my Christian walk and share it with others. Then I can bring back to my church the great news about all that is happening at Mount Olive College! I think I am a pretty laid back person; caring, cheery, and proud to say—I love the Lord. And I love to smile. My church members are very happy and glad I am at an institution that lets me fellowship freely with other Christians and has such a strong caring environment!

And that's what I would tell a high school student looking for a good college. I would tell them that if they like to get involved, make great friendships, transform their life, and go to a college where people care, then they need to check out MOC. This is a place where everybody will go that extra mile "with you" to help on class work, projects, and guidance. If you want to be surrounded by a strong Christian atmosphere, like singing, sports, and the arts, then MOC are the only letters you need to remember when filling out a college application!

HISTORY PROFESSOR COMES FULL CIRCLE

by Dr. Alan K. Lamm

Mount Olive College Honors students at the famous Coliseum (Circus Maximus), during their spring break trip to Rome, Italy. They are accompanied by their professors; Dr. Alan Armstrong, Chairman of the Music department, and Dr. Alan Lamm, Chairman of the History and Social Studies department.

Thirty years ago I was a nineteen year old MOC student excited about my first trip overseas. Led by history professor Claude Moore, our tiny group visited Italy and Israel over Christmas break. Little did I know that thirty years later I would be the history professor leading a small group of students on a trip to Italy!!

My wife is European and we travel to Europe every year but this trip was different. This time I was the one responsible for sixteen people! I was fortunate, though, to have plenty of people to help me with the planning phase, and, to have Larry Lean and Alan Armstrong as co-leaders. Their insight into art and music added tremendously to our trip. But most of all I was blessed to have such a fantastic group of students. Linda Holland-Toll, Angela Foster, and the other honors professors do a great job of picking student participants and it showed on our trip. The students were terrific and I never had to worry about them.

Italy is a mecca for historians, theologians, artists, musicians, food lovers, and more. My primary interests are military and religious history and Italy filled the bill in both areas. It's one thing to read about Julius Caesar, Mussolini, and other greats in a book; it's quite another to walk in their actual footsteps. And as a church historian, it was an awe inspiring experience to walk where people like Peter and Paul had once trod.

After getting back from Italy, I was asked to lead the devotion at the faculty meeting. The devotion I gave that day captures much of what I came away with from our trip. In that devotion, I said inspired in part by John 13:36, which reads, "*Simon Peter asked him, 'Lord, where are you going? Jesus replied, 'Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.*" There is an old legend that is told that says that when the Roman Emperor Nero began his persecution of the Christians, the Apostle Peter tried to flee the city in order to escape certain torture and death. If true, you can certainly understand why.

I took some students to the Circus Maximus one day. The Circus Maximus is the place where up to 250,000 Romans gathered to watch their favorite chariot racers compete, but it is also the place where thousands of Christians were viciously torn to pieces by wild animals, martyred for simply being Christian. We also visited the Catacombs that day, the underground crypt where Christians buried the martyrs. One martyr buried there, a young woman, has a statue erected of her as she was entombed: lying on her side, draped in a linen burial cloth like Christ, with a huge slash mark on the side of her neck where the Romans cut her throat. Yet, in spite of it, she held out three fingers to signify the Trinity so that even in her death she was still faithful to the Lord and still testifying for Him. No wonder, then, if the legend is true, that Peter wanted to flee.

But the story also says that as he was running away, the Resurrected Jesus appeared to him in a vision. Peter said to him, "*Dominie, Quo Vadis*"—Where are you going Lord? The Resurrected Christ then replied, "I am going to Rome to be crucified again." The event so moved Peter that he turned around, went back to Rome, and early historical accounts tell us was crucified, but upside down, at his request, since he felt unworthy to die in the same way as Christ. That powerful ancient legend inspired a Polish writer named Henry Sienkiewicz to pen an 1896 novel entitled, *Quo Vadis*. And in 1951, the legend inspired Hollywood to make a film by that same name, staring Robert Taylor and Deborah Kerr.

The legend, the novel, and the movie are all powerful stories but beyond all of that, I think there is a message for all of us here today. From the moment we are born

until the day we die, life is a journey and we all are on the move. The question is, moving toward what? We are all so busy trying to make a living, trying to pay our bills, trying to give and grade exams, attend meetings, write reports, and all the other things we do, but in the midst of all of that confusion and chaos, if you listen, the Lord asks us a question: *Quo Vadis*—Where are *you* going? You are busy, you are on the move, but where are you going with your life? Do you even know? Or are you just being bumped and pushed along by random forces? Or maybe you, too, are running away from your calling like Peter? *Quo Vadis*? Where are you going? Don't get so caught up in doing the things of life that you forget where you are going in life, that you forget your ultimate destination. Don't forget your higher calling, your higher purpose to the Lord. Ask yourself, *Quo Vadis*? Where am I going at MOC, in life, and in my spiritual journey?

Italy made a big impression on me as a young nineteen year old student and the country still inspires me to this very day as both a historian and a Christian. Coming full circle was very nice.

NINETEENTH CENTURY PRESENTATION MADE TO MOC

Pictured (L-R) are Karen Moore, Frances Williams, and Gary Barefoot, curator of the FWB Historical Collection.

Frances Williams and daughter, Karen Moore, a 1983 alumna of Mount Olive College, recently presented the College with Free Will Baptist minutes dating back from 1887 to 1910. The minutes belonged to Mrs. Williams' grandmother, Mrs. Betty Beddard Pate, and were passed to Mrs. Williams by her mother, Mrs. Gladys Pate Howard. Mrs. Pate attended Hull Road FWB Church in Snow Hill.

According to Gary Barefoot, curator of the FWB Historical Collection, "The minutes are a very significant gift since minutes are primary research documents. These are particularly important because over half of them date from the 19th century. Most important, however among the gifted minutes, was a 1903 minute of the Eastern Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists (NC) which was the only year needed by the Collection to complete its holdings of the minutes of that Conference which began in 1896 and is still active today."

The Free Will Baptist Historical Collection is a repository of over 12,000 items of denominational history. The collection is open to the public for research. Donations of historical significance are always welcomed. For more information, contact Gary Barefoot at (919) 658-2502.

COMINGS EVENTS

Drought Tolerant Plants for the Landscape

"Drought Tolerant Plants for the Landscape" will be the topic of the July 10, Lunch and Learn Series sponsored by the Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center. Jessica Hyatt, horticulture extension agent, will lead the discussion in the Hennessee Room of the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center from 12:00 to 12:45 P.M.

The free event is open to all students, faculty, staff, and the public. Attendees are encouraged to bring a bag lunch or to go through the College's cafeteria line (cost $5 for general public). For more information, please call the Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center at (919) 658-7510.

MOC Summer Camps

Mount Olive College offers a number of athletic summer camps for youth. Held on the MOC campus and facilitated by the Trojan team coaches, these are a great opportunity for children to learn new skills and make new friends. For a summer schedule, check out the official Trojan Athletes website: <http://www.moc.edu/athletics/?2008_camps>.

COUNTING THE COST

by The Reverend Kevin Jackson, Treasurer, OFWB Convention

"If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish" (Luke 14:26–30).

What would you think of someone who began building a house without plans? Or someone who got halfway through with their home to only discover they had run out of money? Well, you would probably do the same thing that the Bible says in Luke 14:30; you would begin to make fun of the person. Why? Well, evidently he did not have the good sense to plan and to count the cost of building the home that he wanted.

Several years ago the Convention of OFWB decided that we needed to have a centralized office, representing the Convention. We decided that we needed a place that would help our churches by providing information, communication, promotion, training, and support services. We decided that in order for these things to be accomplished we needed an Administrative Assistant and a Convention Services Director. So we established the Convention Headquarters Office.

But alas, it seems that since the establishment of this office it has been plagued with financial troubles. The office of Convention Services was even done away with a few years ago because of lack of funding. With God's help we were able to reestablish that office a little over 3 years ago, but we were still plagued with financial troubles. Each January of the last 3 years, the office of the Convention has had to withdraw $15,000 from their savings in order to meet their expenses. As of January 2008 that fund had only about $29,000 in it. At the present rate of giving, in January 2009 at least $15,000 will have to be pulled from that account, once again to meet expenses. Even with the new budget for 2010, and the committee cutting here and moving there and raising convention fees, we are still looking at a deficit of $9,000. Do the math; if something is not done by January 2010 the Convention office will have about $5,000 in their savings and we will be looking, once again, at closing this office down.

I absolutely refuse to believe that we in the OFWB Convention cannot afford to keep this office open. I refuse to believe that our churches cannot afford even $5 a week to help meet this financial need. I refuse to believe that our God is so limited in scope and power that He cannot lay upon the heart of His people the desire to reach out and make this office financially stable. I refuse to stand by and watch the world mock us because we did not count the cost and were not able to finish the job that He has for our denomination.

I want each and every OFWB to understand the importance of all our ministries. I want you to know that as a denomination we have taken on these ministries, and as a denomination we are responsible for these ministries, and as a denomination we need to count the cost and realize that it will cost US to keep each one of these ministries operating. I urge each and every church to support our ministries, to include them in your cost of doing business for God. I urge you to support the office of the Convention and to do whatever you can to insure its continued success and existence. I would like to propose the following to each and every church in our denomination.

1) Pray. Please pray for each of our ministries, and pray for our Convention office, and our director, Buddy Sasser, and his assistant, Andrea Cox.

2) Get a copy of the brochure that lists what this office does for our denomination, read it, and circulate it to others.

3) If you or your church does not give to the office of the Convention I urge you to consider starting. At least $5 a week would not hurt any of our churches. We spend more than that a week on soft drinks. If it is possible, make the gift $5, $10, or $20 a week. If just 100 churches were to give just $5 a week, the office would receive an extra $26,000 in support this year.

4) Those churches that are supporting the office, we want to thank you, and ask you to consider increasing your giving by the same $5, $10, or $20 per week.

I believe in God's people. I know that when we believe that something is worth it we are willing to pay the cost. I believe the office of the Convention is worth the cost. It is my prayer that God will lay upon the hearts of at least 100 churches to increase or begin their giving of at least $5 a week so we can keep this office open and continue to move forward for Christ. Thank you for your time. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

DAYSPRING WOMAN'S CONFERENCE: JUNE 4–7, 2008

by Mary Dudley

Cragmont Assembly seems to be the place to be for the ladies of our denomination to meet for a time of meditation, Bible study, reflection, and fellowship. The 25–30 people who attended represented four of the conferences. The dedicated staff consisted of Mrs. May Pittman; Director, Mrs. Joan Little, Registrar; Mrs. Jackie Flowers, Music Director; and Mrs. JoAnn Parrish, Pianist. The Bible teacher for the weekend was Mrs. Brenda Best from Whaley's Chapel OFWB Church, Richlands. Mrs. Lorraine Garner delivered morning devotions each day. Miss Becky Jo Sumner led the Bible study on Friday night.

Mrs. Pittman welcomed everyone on Wednesday evening just before our worship service with the Reverend Harold Jones. Ms. Pittman opened with a devotion concerning peace that led into Brother Jones' message. In his message, Brother Jones shared his thoughts about the intangibles for which we should seek as Christians. They are hope, joy, love, and peace. It was a truly inspiring message that provided much "food for thought." He also shared some of his thoughts about the driving force behind a person if they are to become a missionary. He further shared some of his experiences in Liberia as the new mission point was being established. The Missions offering was $427 to be used as Brother Jones sees the need.

On Thursday night, the Reverend John Williams shared his thoughts about Cragmont being a mission point as well as the other denominational ministries. He talked about the current status of Cragmont with regard to building projects, debt retirement, retreats, and summer encampments. He shared that the next building project will be to renovate and enlarge the dining hall, but before that is done, the debt of $285 thousand on the Lodge needs to be retired. He also encouraged participation in the Cragmont Golf Tournaments as the funds from the tournaments go toward the Lodge debt. The Cragmont offering for the night was $1012.

On Friday night, Miss Becky Jo Sumner led a discovery Bible study from Judges 11 entitled, **"A Lesson in Obedience—*Obey No Matter the Cost.*"** It was a lesson concerning Jephthah's daughter and her obedience to her father's vow to God and the people. There was a great deal of discussion about the biblical passage and each one came away with a better understanding of the extent of true obedience to oneself and others.

The Bible teacher for the week was Mrs. Brenda Best, who is the Sunday School Superintendent for her church as well as being a member of the OFWB Sunday School Board. She is also the chairwoman of the Cosmetology Department of Craven Community College, New Bern, North Carolina. She conducted 4 lessons with the overall theme of **Enriching Our Prayer Lives**. She used a variety of methods to capture the attention of the participants, which included small group discussion, questions/answers, and drama. During each lesson, she assumed the role of Peter, Jesus in the desert, a Jewish tax collector, and blind Bartimeaus. Her interpretations were captivating and motivating, while being inspirational. During each of the lessons, she used the model of a hand with each finger providing us with a prompt about prayer:

1) Give God praise;
2) Give God thanks;
3) Ask for forgiveness;
4) Pray for others;
5) Pray for ourselves; and
6) Clap our hands and praise Him again and again.

Throughout the weekend during the devotion time, the participants were encouraged to examine our lives concerning our witness for Jesus. On Saturday morning, each of the participants was asked to share their answer to a question that was asked on Thursday morning. Mrs. Garner asked, "If we could have one prayer answered, what would it be?" Many stories were shared that brought the weekend to a soul-searching conclusion. Through the stories and tears came prayers for personal reasons, health issues, church concerns, and denominational relationships. All in all the prayers were tied to all the Bible studies, Brother Jones' message, and devotions. God truly led in a mighty way through our fellowship at break times, shopping times, rest times, and meal times.

Cragmont staff members are to be commended for their hospitality, good food, and general helpfulness during the weekend. Remember the next Woman's Conferences that will be held on July 27–August 1, 2008 and September 19–21, 2008. Contact Mrs. Joan Little or Mrs. May Pittman for further information.

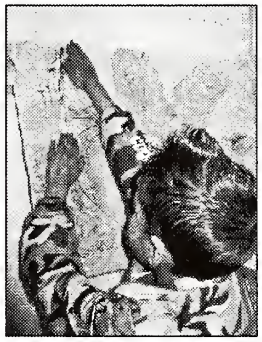
VICTORY IN JESUS

by Tezdjan

"...Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Luke 24:46–47).

On April 27, we had three Easter Services in our church (small garage) led by Willem and me. During the morning services we met with 43 children and about 26 youth. For the evening service, we invited 20 young, married couples; 18 of them and 6 uninvited people came to celebrate with us! We celebrated the message of Easter with more than 110 persons who confess that they love Jesus.

Our children, as small as they are, know that on Easter the eggs are not the most important things to enjoy, but that our reason of celebration is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Most of the kids participated in the flannel lesson by placing figures on the board and explaining to me what they represented in the Easter story. The youth also responded to the Easter message. We had a discussion about the issues of sin. Sin is a crime against God that makes all of us criminals in the eyes of the Most Holy One. Only through the sacrifice of Jesus can we be set free from our guilt, if we take Him seriously as our Savior.



In the evening we had a wonderful time of worship together! Willem had a very encouraging and comforting message about the meaning of the Resurrection of Christ for the individual sinner and for the church. He reminded us of the Lord's Supper, which we celebrated on the evening of Good Friday, commemorating the suffering of our Savior! At the cross we receive forgiveness of sins and at the empty tomb we find victory over death.

While talking together, Shuki, one of the young ladies in our church, said: "Most of my friends are prostitutes in foreign countries. If I had not come here as a child, if Willem had not come here to tell us that Jesus died for us, if we had not received this small classroom to learn and hear the Word, I would probably now be working like my friends. Praise the Lord, for the people who have sent Willem and Lydia to us, because without them, we all would be left in a very thick darkness."

This testimony brought us real Easter, for Jesus said: "I am the light of the world. I am the resurrection and the life." There is no genuine life apart of Jesus. May God bless all of us with His love and mercy and may His Holy Spirit renew in us every day.

ORDINATION SERVICE
PUERTO PRINCESSA CITY, PALAWAN PHILIPPINES

by the Reverend Mark Taladro

In our last Ministerial Conference we held an Ordination Service at the First Free Will Baptist Church, Puerto Princesa City. Two licensed ministers committed their lives for ordination: Pastor Arman Manzano, who serves the Canigaran Free Will Baptist Church and Pastor Orlando Garcia, who is pioneering a church in Puerto. The Rev. Harold Jones was the guest speaker during the ordination service. We pray that these pastors and our churches will have one vision and goal of spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout the Philippines.

The Ordination Counsel continues to encourage our licensed ministers to complete their ordination requirements and become ordained.

LOLA PEPAY RECIEVES JESUS CHRIST AS HER SAVIOR
CALOOCAN CITY, MANILA, PHILIPPINES

by Marvie Cuba

A "House Church" was started in Caloocan City, which is in the Greater Manila area, during 2007. A "House Church" is composed of a group of people from different backgrounds who come together in a friend's house for Bible study and prayer.

Lola Pepay was invited by her best friend, Lola Leonor, who is 85 years old, to attend the Bible study. Lola Pepay came regularly to the Sunday morning Bible study. I always greeted her with a smile and welcomed her into our fellowship. She, however, said that she was born a Catholic. I told her that religion cannot save a person, only Jesus Christ. She accepted the invitation to study the Bible, but did not want to change her way of worship.

Pastor Arnel Cuba and Pastor Jun Buscano taught a lesson from the Scriptures about idols and the proper way to worship God. She was very interested in this subject and listened attentively. She asked questions about salvation and Pastor Jun Buscano led her into repentance and trust in Jesus Christ as her personal Savior. Afterwards, she testified that she experienced a warmth in her heart and a happiness that she had never known before. Jesus is truly her Savior. Please pray for Lola Pepay, that God's Word will bear fruit in her life and that of her family.

*Lola is a word that expresses respect for an elderly lady. It is also used for "Grandma."

Vacation Bible School

Special Project For Foreign Missions

This year we have two exciting opportunities for you to help those with special needs in one of the countries where we have mission work.

For details call (252) 746-4963.

OFWB INTERNATIONAL FOREIGN MISSIONS

P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513-0039

AWARDS DAY

On June 4, 2008 the residents and staff joined together for an Awards Banquet. This has become somewhat an annual tradition at the home. At previous banquets, the residents were treated to a meal at a local pizza parlor. However, this year we had staff volunteers to cook chickens on the grill. All of the children and staff met in Heritage Hall for a delicious meal of barbecue chicken with all the "fixins," including several delicious desserts. After the meal, everyone settled down for the awards presentations.

The ceremony began with a short processional by our two high school seniors, both young ladies. They both received various awards for academic achievements, as well as recognition and gifts for graduation. In addition, recognition was given to the children who had participated in extra curricular activities, as well as best overall grads for various subjects.

We are proud of the young adults at the Children's Home, and it is always a pleasure to see them put forth their best effort to achieve their goals.

62nd Annual Alumni Homecoming

Don't Forget our 62nd
Annual Alumni Homecoming

Sunday July 13, 2008

Speaker: Michael Faye Murphy (Heath), Chester, VA

Lunch served in Whitley at 12 P.M., following the service

MUDCATS BASEBALL

It's time again to enjoy an evening at the ball game. The Spring Branch Layman's League is hosting our fifth annual Paper Products/Cleaning Supply Drive. If you haven't already purchased tickets, it is not too late. There will be a booth set up at the entrances of the MudCats Stadium for you to drop off your product donations. Come out and join the fun on July 25, 2008. Enjoy the ballgame and the fireworks display, as well as socializing with members from sister churches.

Thank You

Monies for our Change For Children Campaign are coming in, and the response so far is good. These funds help us provide for the children during the summer months when school is out. We would like to say thanks for helping make this campaign a success.

☞ NEEDS LIST ☜

- Bed Pillows
- Extreme Teen Bibles (NKJV)
- 33 Gallon or larger trash receptacles
- Heavy duty Cookware sets
- Personal Hygiene items
- Summer Trip Sponsor

CHILDREN'S HOME FOOD PROGRAM

The response to our food program drive has been truly amazing. More than 53 churches have provided monies and gift cards for the program, and many have brought food items to the home.

We would like to say thanks to all who have helped us with this need. We will continue to provide good nutritious meals for the children we serve.

Some of the churches that helped participate in the home food program are pictured here:

Clockwise from top right are:

1) Marlboro FWB Church (Layman's League)
2) Soundside FWB Church
3) Snead's Ferry FWB Church
4) Marlboro FWB Church (Woman's Auxiliary)
5) Little Rock (Woman's Auxiliary)

Retirement Homes Ministry

RETIREMENT HOMES MINISTRY
PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE IN JESUS' NAME

by Ronnie Taylor, Executive Director

A great big thank you goes out to the Youth Convention for their generous support for Retirement Homes. The youth project for 2008 was Retirement Homes and a total of $6,658.12 was raised to help with the building of porches on the duplex in Ayden (see photos) and for other needed repairs.

We also want to thank our churches and individuals for their generous support also. At this point in the year we have received about 57% of our anticipated contributions for this year. This is a wonderful thing. We know the contributions come in a little slower in the second half of the year, so to be at that percentage now is great.

We were able to add a new client to our ministry in May. The Reverend James Warren, who is now retired, has become a part of this ministry and we give thanks to God that financially we are able to do this.

God continues to bless this ministry. The level of service we now supply can be maintained and we can expand if the need arises. Please continue to prayer for and support your Retirement Homes Ministry.

COASTAL SATELLITE OF THE MID-ATLANTIC CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (MACEA)

NEW BERN CHURCH OF GOD
NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA
AUGUST 8–9, 2008

Registration fee: $25 each day or if attending both days, $45

Theme: *Teaching and Learning in a 24/7 World* (2 Timothy 4:2)

During the 2 day conference there will be a choice of 70 workshops for teachers, children's leaders, pastors, youth workers, women's leaders, men's leaders, and church workers in general. Some of the workshop leaders are:

- Dr. John McMurphy
- Brother Ron Hunter
- Brother Eric Barger
- Brother Jim Hogsett
- Brother Paul Learned
- Brother Glenn Massengill
- Dr. Eddie Moody
- Brother Wes Bartell
- Brother Clancey Hayes
- Dr. David Salmons
- Brother Doug Case
- Mrs. Cathy Crumpler
- Miss Sarah Crumpler
- Brother Larry Jaffrey
- Brother Ron Richardson
- Brother Brian Everett
- Brother Tom Van Meter
- Dr. Roosevelt Baxter
- Brother Jim Marshburn
- Brother David Charles Hansley
- Brother David Satterfield

The featured speaker will be Dr. Matt Pinson, President of the Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee. He will also be conducting some seminars.

For further information, contact Mrs. Mary Dudley, Director of OFWB Sunday School Ministry at (252) 746-4963 or (252) 559-3327 or <director@ofwbsundayschool.org>.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish..."
(Proverbs 29:18).

AN ENLARGED VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

by W. Burkette Raper

During a recent vacation, I was taking a walk on the boardwalk at Lake Lure in Western North Carolina. It was early morning, and a snail was also taking its "walk" on the boardwalk. Its head was protruded out of its shell, as if it were searching where to go. I stood to observe its movement, which was hardly perceptible. Leaving it undisturbed, I walked on. Upon my return, some ten minutes later, the snail was virtually in the same place, but I could tell it was alive. Gently, I touched it with my foot; and sensing a threat to its safety, the snail instantly withdrew into its shell. I was amused at its dubious sense of security, and I am still pondering the lesson of that snail: Did it have a destination? And if so, did it have a plan for reaching it?

In my devotional reading that next day, the message of the Prophet Isaiah to his dispirited people in captivity came to mind:

"Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes. ...Fear not..." (Isaiah 54:2, 4a).

Today, as in the past, there are two voices which call out to Original Free Will Baptists. One is the voice of the snail, which says: When you feel threatened and inadequate, withdraw into your own little shell and become oblivious to what is going on around you. The other voice is a call from God to an enlarged vision of His purpose for our lives and for our church. The future of Original Free Will Baptists will be determined by which voice we hear and follow.

ENLARGED VISION FOR THE EDUCATION OF MINISTERS

Commission on Education For Christian Ministry

At its annual session in May 2008, the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists took a significant step forward in providing educational assistance for those called to Christian ministry. By unanimous vote, the Convention added to its Constitution the "Commission on Education For Christian Ministry" and defined its work as follows:

1) To provide a medium for voluntary coordination of services by agencies within the Convention which address the equipping of those called to Christian ministry;

2) To provide a resource of information, publications, literature and other media, along with appropriate consultation relative to educational options, for those called to Christian ministry, including pastoral services, youth ministry, services to the elderly, church music, counseling, Christian education and other Christian vocations; and

3) To provide appropriate conferences, workshops and other learning opportunities which will foster excellence in Christian ministry.

To assist the Commission in beginning its work, the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries has voted to assign the first distribution from the "W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper Family Endowment" for this purpose. (The distribution is scheduled for late July 2008.)

Campbell University Divinity School Courses at Mount Olive College

Under a Partnership Agreement, the Divinity School offers on the Mount Olive College campus the core courses leading to a Master of Divinity degree. For Original Free Will Baptist ministers, both licensed and ordained, the cost of tuition can often be covered for qualified students through the Financial Aid Office of

the Divinity School and the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries. For fall semester 2008, two courses, both taught by Dean Michael Cogdill, will be offered:

DIV 1000—Intro to Theological Education (2 hours)

An introductory course designed to orient students to the fields of study and expectation related to preparation for ministry, under the Divinity School mission statement of Christ-centered, Bible-based and Ministry-focused theological education.

Mondays: 2:30 P.M.–5:00 P.M.
Dates: (August 25; September 8, 22; October 6, 20; November 3, 17; December 1)

DIV 4070—Worship and Spiritual Formation (1 hour)

An introduction to the spiritual and vocational dimensions of a minister's life. Through class sessions and precept groups, students will examine their call to ministry, biblical teachings about God's call, and the importance of developing Christian community.

Mondays: 6:00 P.M.–8:30 P.M.
Dates: (August 25; September 8, 22; October 6, 20; November 3, 17; December 1)

To enroll or for scholarship assistance from Campbell Divinity School, students should immediately contact:

Kelly M. Jones, Director of Admissions
Post Office Box 4050
Buies Creek, NC 27506
(910) 893-1865 or (800) 760-9827 ext. 1865
kjones@campbell.edu

For scholarship assistance from the Foundation, applicants should contact W. Burkette Raper, President, at the address in next column.

The Free Will Baptist Church:
Online course by Mount Olive College

This informative course, offered on July 14–August 17, includes a study of the history, faith, polity, and programs of the denomination. Required of all Original Free Will Baptist ministerial students at Mount Olive College. Students not currently enrolled at Mount Olive should apply to:

College Admissions Office:
634 Henderson Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(919) 658-2505
Email: admissions@moc.edu
Website: www.moc.edu

Eligible Sources for Assistance

Mount Olive College Free Will Baptist Ministerial Grant

Traditional students are granted funds in combination with their financial aid package up to 90% of tuition, not including loans.

For more information about the Free Will Baptist Ministerial Grant, contact:

Office of Financial Aid
634 Henderson Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(919) 658-2505

North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries

Application should be submitted to the Foundation which will consider additional funding to assist with balance.

For more information about the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries, contact:

W. Burkette Raper, President
619 West Main Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(919) 658-3855 or (919) 658-7839
wraper@moc.edu

Modular Students

Tuition grants and scholarships for the above courses are also available to students enrolled in the modular program of Mount Olive College. Applications should be addressed to both the College and the Foundation at the address listed above.

For more information about the course, contact Dr. Alan Lamm: (919) 658-7779 or <alamm@moc.edu>.

MISSION OF THE FOUNDATION

A major goal of the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries is to help remove the financial barriers to an education for those who wish to equip themselves for excellence as pastors and for other Christian vocations. *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists* requires that prior to ordaining a person, the ordaining councils of the various conferences shall "inquiry into his educational achievement and his knowledge of theology, homiletics, church history, Bible and church government, with special emphasis on the polity, doctrine and history of Original Free Will Baptists," (page 88).

Foundation scholarships are designed to support the work of the ordaining councils and to assist those called to Christian ministry to prepare for the quality of services our churches need and deserve.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION JOURNEY

by Teresa Grubbs

Almost 200 Woman's Auxiliary members, ministers, ministry directors, and visitors journeyed to Mount Olive on May 8, 2008 to attend the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The eighty-first session of the convention was hosted at Mount Olive College by the Woman's Auxiliary of the Albemarle District. The theme for the Convention was "How Do I Get There From Here?" The theme verse was taken from Isaiah 40:31: "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." "They That Wait Upon the Lord" was the theme song for the day.

The journey began with a fellowship time which included registration, refreshments, and visiting with the denominational ministry directors at their displays. As we continued on our way, we were gloriously blessed by a medley of songs by a choir of women made up of Woman's Auxiliary women from across the state, directed by Cynthia Kennedy and accompanied by Sharlene Howell on the piano.

In her remarks, President Joan Little reminded us that God has planned our trip and the Bible is our roadmap. We were inspired and challenged by Fran Overton, Denise Kennedy, and Linda McCoy with their messages on "How Do I Get There From Here...In My Devotion,"...In Missions" and,...In My Service."

The Reverend John Hill gave a report on the "Woman's Auxiliary Task Force on Youth Ministry" which was formed in the past year. Special thanks go to Mrs. Martha Parsons for her many years of service and work with our Youth Convention as the state youth director. Much has been accomplished under her leadership. Thanks also to Mrs. Faye Bryant for her help as co-director in the past few years. As other reports were given we were able to see how far the Woman's Auxiliary has journeyed in the past year. We enjoyed the reports of the Original Free Will Baptist denominational ministries. Let us always support them with our finances and prayers.

A very deserving woman was honored with the 2008 Life Membership Award. She has served the Woman's Auxiliary on the local, district, and state levels. Mrs. Nadine Crocker, treasurer for the last 26 years on the state level, was this year's recipient. Thank you, Mrs. Nadine, for all your hard work.

The last leg of our journey took us to the Murphy Center for a marvelous lunch, the installation of the 2008–2010 officers, and a special treat for all in attendance. Many thanks go to the Albemarle District for being such a gracious hostess. Our gratitude also goes to everyone who had a part in making this convention one of the best. As everyone journeyed home, I am sure they were blessed as they pondered the sights and sounds of the Eighty-First Session of the North Carolina Woman's Convention of the Original Free Will Baptists.

"CONNECTING, EDUCATING, AND TRANSFORMING LIVES FOR CHRIST"

The Woman's Auxiliary Task Force on Youth Ministry is sponsoring the "first" ever Original Free Will Baptist Youth Leaders Summit on Saturday, September 13, 2008 from 1–6 P.M. on the campus of Mount Olive College.

Mark your calendar for this date and check the August issue of *The Free Will Baptist* for more details. This afternoon will be focusing on sharing information with our pastors, youth pastors, and youth leaders on the present and future ministry of our youth.

If additional information is needed before the August issue is available, please contact Angela Mattox at (252) 637-5918 or Victor Jones at (910) 298-3061.

This task force has been appointed by the State Convention of the Woman's Auxiliary Executive Committee in an effort to aspire greater ministry to all children and youth.

"O send out thy light and thy truth"
(Psalm 43:3a).

SPORTS COURT DEDICATION AND NOTE BURNING

May 3, 2008 was another blessed day for Camp Vandemere's ministry. On this day, our Camp Manager and Board of Directors hosted a Sports Court Dedication and Note Burning Service.

The Events/Publicity Committee was in charge of the services and a buffet meal that was to follow. The service began at 5 P.M. with Mrs. Pat Arthur playing a selection of songs that brought the congregation together in a spiritual mood of thanksgiving. Our Camp Manager, the Reverend Wesley Taylor, welcomed the assembled group and gave thanks to the Lord for the gifts received by the camp in the way of the completed Sports Court and Debt Retirement. Brother Wesley then led the group in the Hymn of Praise, "To God Be The Glory," after which the Reverend Owen Arthur gave the invocation. The Reverend Ashley Summerlin brought a Scripture reading, after which his wife, Cynthia, brought special praise through song. The dedicatory message was delivered by the Reverend James R. Clark and ending with the Hymn of Commitment, "Victory In Jesus." We then moved out to the Sports Court to complete our afternoon service. Mr. Victor Jones led the Responsive Dedication and asked Mr. Ronnie Taylor to lead in the Prayer of Dedication. At this time, Brother Victor asked for Brothers Damon Kennedy and Wesley Taylor to come forward to assist in the note burning. They held a copy of the original note while Brother Victor lit it and the group looked on until only ashes were left. The debt that was retired in March of this year originated back in 1999 from necessity to repair storm damage, as well as some much needed maintenance projects. Thanks goes out to everyone who played a part in helping to pay off the debt early. Again, "To God Be The Glory." A prayer of benediction was given, along with the blessing of the meal, by the Rev. Francis Garner.

The group then proceeded to the dining hall to enjoy a delicious meal of BBQ and all the trimmings prepared by members of the Events/Publicity committee, our Camp Manager and a group of dedicated ladies from the Wintergreen OFWB Church in Cove City. A time of fellowship and reflection was shared between all attending involving how far God has brought the ministry of Camp Vandemere and what lays ahead in His plan.

SUMMER CAMP

STILL TIME TO COME DOWN TO THE BAY RIVER

There are still summer camp weeks available for your young people to participate in.
Please contact one of the camp directors listed below for more information.

Spring Hope Church Week
July 6–11, 2008
Eva Mae Clark
465 Half Moon Road
New Bern, NC 28560
(252) 637-5346
Debbie Warren
(252) 637-4560

General Youth Camp Week
July 13–18, 2008
The Reverend Wesley Taylor
P. O. Box 188
Vandemere, NC 28587
(252) 745-3171
(252) 514-3222

New Bethlehem Church Week
July 20–25, 2008
Sandy Williams
156 Williams Lane
New Bern, NC 28560
(252) 745-9840

First Church of Wilson Week
July 27–August 1, 2008
The Reverend Doug Radford
1446 Old Smithfield Road
Goldsboro, NC 27530
(919) 734-4602

Branch Chapel Church Week
August 3–8, 2008
The Reverend Terry Dennis
2160 Glendale Road
Kenly, NC 27542
(919) 284-6144

COMING EVENTS

October 17–18, 2008	Singin' By The River
November 8, 2008	Annual Fishing Tournament

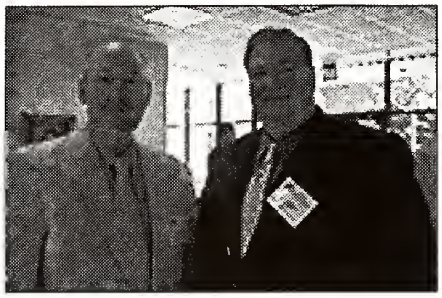
Please invite the Camp Manager or a Board Member to your church or meeting for a presentation.

Thank you for your continued support of Camp Vandemere through prayer and financial means.
Without you, our camp cannot continue to fulfill its mission of bringing youth to Christ.

The Reverend Wesley Taylor, Camp Manager
P. O. Box 188
Vandemere, NC 28587
(252) 745-3171 camp office
(252) 514-3222 cell

Damon Kennedy, Camp Treasurer
1571 Red Hill Road
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(919) 658-3253 home
(910) 296-7100 cell

Camp Vandemere, Inc.
215 Third Street
Vandemere NC 28587



THE ELDER P. T. LUCAS AWARD

Established by Dr. Thomas R. Morris of Wilmington, North Carolina in May of 1998 this award is to recognize outstanding service by Free Will Baptist pastors. The award is a memorial to Dr. Morris' great-grandfather, who was a Free Will Baptist minister.

The recipient is evaluated on his pastoral leadership and service along with his denomination and community services.

Two awards are presented: one to a full-time pastor (employed by a church) and one to a bi-vocational pastor (employed by a church and also holds another full-time job).

The award is to be used by the recipient to strengthen and enrich his pastoral ministry.

Pictured are the recipients for the P.T. Lucas Award for 2008.

The Rev. Johnny R. Sullivan received the award for the full-time pastor. He is currently the pastor at Daniels Chapel Church in Wilson, NC.

The Rev. Philip R. Wood received the bi-vocational pastor award. He is currently the pastor at Little Creek OFWB Church in Scuffleton, NC and is the full-time chaplain at Eastern Correctional in Maury, NC

LANIER'S CHAPEL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

by Mabel Lanier, Church Reporter

The church at Lanier's Chapel OFWB, Chinquapin, is pleased to share the good news of Jenica Jones. She is the daughter of Keith and Kim Jones of Beulaville. She has a twin sister, Courtney. Both Jenica and Courtney attended Cragmont 3 years as campers and 1 year as counselors. Jenica has attended Lanier's Chapel since birth. We have watched her grow up in Sunday School, YFA, Vacation Bible School, and become a dedicated member. She will, on occasion, honor us with special singing. Now she feels her life has taken a new direction.

As we share a portion of her letter addressed to the people of Lanier's Chapel, we invite you to join us as prayer partners for Jenica's safety and God's continual blessings on this journey she has chosen.

Dear Family and Friends,

I hope that this letter finds you well. I would like to share with you a new direction in my life; one that I hope you will become a part of. As many of you know, I have spent the past two years in college at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. For the majority of those two years I have been involved in an on-campus organization called Campus Crusade for Christ where I have made invaluable friendships which have challenged me to grow in my relationship with God.

This past year, I've been developing a heart that is compassionate for the world and for the millions of people who live each day without hearing about God's love for them. Lately, my focus has been directed towards something called the 10/40 window. It's the area of the world extending from 10 degrees to 40 degrees north of the Equator, stretching from North Africa to China. Out of the 6.5 billion people who live in the world today, 2.5 billion are considered unreached, *with no access to the Gospel. Eighty-eight percent of those people live within the 10/40 window, but less than 10% of Christian missionaries venture into this area of the world. It is my desire to be a part of this minority that is sharing the Gospel. Isaiah 49:6 reads: "...I'm setting you up as a light for the nations so that my salvation becomes global!" (MSG). I believe this is God's plan for my life.*

This summer, from June 4–July 24, I am attending a seven-week Intensive Training (IT) Project in Philadelphia, PA. The project is sponsored by The Traveling Team, a non-profit, non-denominational ministry that is designed to further prepare students to become missionaries. While I am there I will be studying the major religions of the world: Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, tribal spirituality, and Chinese philosophy. My time will be spent learning to effectively minister to people of these religions while getting hands-on experience in initiative evangelism. In Psalm 67:2, we read: "...The whole country will see how you work, all the godless nations see how you save..." (MSG). Therefore, it is my goal to leave Philadelphia equipped to deliver the message of God's love to all areas of the world.

I would like to ask that you pray for my peers and myself as we try to make a difference in the world this summer. I can assure you that God will shower you with blessings.

Thanks so much,
Jenica Jones

CHRIST FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

Christ Freewill Baptist Church of Stokesdale, NC recently held two events to raise money for the fellowship hall building fund. The Ladies Auxiliary and Men's Brotherhood sponsored a yard sale. God sent two ladies to our sale that purchased ALL of our yard sale items! What a blessing from God! We had a wonderful fellowship with one another, raised a good sum of money, and invited yard sale shoppers to church. The Lord really blessed our yard sale that day. We thank and give God all the praise! *Pictured from left to right are: Wayne Hicks, Adam Tilley, the Rev. David Atkins, Ann Tilley, and Pat Hicks.*

The Ladies Auxiliary of Christ Freewill Baptist Church also sponsored a lasagna, salad, and dessert supper on Saturday May 24, 2008, to raise money for the building fund. We had good fellowship with one another and good times, as we always do

The lasagna, prepared by Sheryl Hopper, was most flavorful, delicious, and enjoyed by everyone. Once again, we thank God for what He has done for us and our church. God has also blessed us with an excellent pastor, the Rev. David Atkins and his wife, Janice. Thank you God for blessing our church! *Pictured are the Rev. David Atkins and his wife, Janice.*

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2008!

by Pebbles Joyce

Graduation from high school is a time for our youth to step out into the world. This is when a teen turns to an adult and makes plans for their future. God has a purpose for each person. Graduates need to seek God's guidance for their future. They need to fully trust God, need Him, ask Him, and obey Him. Let's pray that all our youth will seek the face of God for their future.

Christ Freewill Baptist Church of Stokesdale, NC, pastored by the Rev. David Atkins, had two teens from church to graduate from high school. Carson Hopper, son of Sheryl and Harold Hopper of Walnut Cove, graduated from South Stokes High School. He plans to attend Diesel Mechanical School and go into that field of work for his future.

Amber Stevens, daughter of Teena and Ricky Stevens, graduated from Northwest Guilford. Her grandparents, Curtis and Nancy Stevens, were part of the first few that started our church many years ago.

Carson and Amber's parents gave them a graduation party in our fellowship hall on Sunday, June 1, 2008. Hot dogs, chips, nachos, and graduation cake was enjoyed by everyone.

We wish all our graduates the best of luck with their future endeavors. Class of 2008, we love you! You are in our prayers.

Carson Hopper with his mom, Sheryl and dad, Harold Hopper.

Amber Stevens, her grandparents, Curtis and Nancy Stevens, and parents, Teena and Ricky Stevens.

PALMER MEMORIAL HONORS GRADUATES

On Sunday, June 1, 2008, Palmer Memorial OFWB Church honored three Graduates. Morgan Ashley Lane graduated on June 12 from Clayton High School, Clayton, North Carolina with Honors. She is the daughter of Jeff and Teresa Lane and the granddaughter of David and Betty Strickland. Morgan will enter North Carolina State University in the School of Engineering in the Fall.

Kevin Lee Myrick, son of the Rev. Joe Myrick, who is pastor of Palmer Memorial Church, graduated from Wallace-Rose Hill High School. He will enter James Sprunt Community College to obtain a degree in Welding and pursue a degree in Basic Law Enforcement.

Elizabeth Ann Stafford graduated from East Carolina University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology. She is pursuing a Master's Degree at North Carolina State University in Agency Counseling. Elizabeth is the daughter of Jack and Jean Stafford.

A reception given by the graduates' parents was held after the Sunday evening worship service. A time of fellowship and refreshments was enjoyed by all. The graduates received many gifts from those attending.

We are proud of the accomplishments these young people have already achieved and wish them well as they pursue a higher level of education.

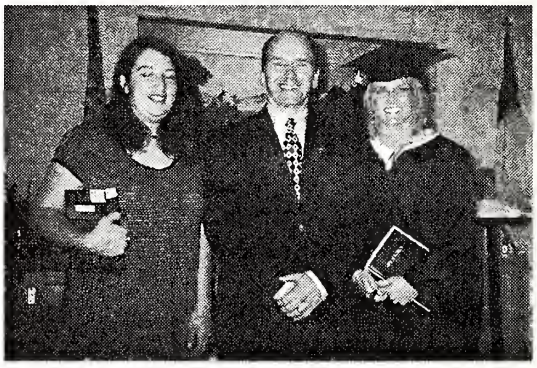
SMYRNA NEWS

Graduation Sunday was held at Smyrna OFWB Church in the Meadow community on June 1. The Rev. Richard Whitman, pastor resented Bibles to Nicole Watson, who is graduating from Mount Olive College in August and Beth Barefoot graduating from Johnston Community College.

Bibles were also presented to Brittney Barefoot and Chason Allen, who recently graduated from South Johnston High School.

A copy of *The Bible Promise Book* was presented to Brittney Watson, Kayla Hickok, Nathan Raynor, Gosh Johnson, and Erin Parker who was in Washington, D. C. participating in the National Spelling Bee, all graduating from the 8th grade to high school.

Brooke Parker and Colby Jackson, who graduated to the first grade, were presented a Bible story book.



Pictured are Nicole Watson, who will be graduating from Mount Olive College in August and Beth Barefoot, who recently graduated from Johnston Community College accepting a Bible from their pastor the Rev. Richard Whitman.

Following a special worship service and Memorial Day related message by the pastor, the Rev. Richard Whitman, the congregation of Smyrna OFWB Church gathered in silence at the church cemetery to pay tribute to the deceased veterans buried in the church cemetery on May 25.

The congregation waited while family members and/or friends placed American flags on each of the veteran's graves.

Those paid tribute to were Bruce E. Lee, Eugene Barefoot, Ray Cashwell, Roy Denning, James D. (J. D.) Johnson, James (Jimmy) Norris, Earl J. Parker, Hilbert H. Parker, Henry A. Powell, Aldus J. Smith, Charles (Charlie) Smith, Earl Smith, John N. Smith, J. W. Watson, Sherrill L. Tart, Jack W. Wilkins, and Samuel E. Williford.

Pastor Whitman expressed appreciation to those assisting and asked deacon Ray G. Smith to close the ceremony when he spoke of one of his three veteran brothers buried in the cemetery (Charlie), who was killed in a plane crash during the Korean War, and closed with prayer.

Pictured are Ethel Parker and son David placing an American flag on the grave of veteran Earl J. Parker, husband and father, during a Memorial Day tribute.

THE DAY THAT LUCKY THE TURTLE CAME TO CHURCH

by Janet L. Warren

On Sunday, May 4, 2008 the youth of St. Paul FWB Church in Newton Grove carried out Sunday School and the worship service. Sunday School began with Marcus Hope as Superintendent. Marcus welcomed everyone and led us in songs and the Scripture reading before we went to our classes. He then discussed announcements and any further business to come before the Sunday School.

Bratley Tart led our Worship service. Evan Hope and Dawson Raynor lighted candles. As the youth came in Bratley asked the congregation to join in singing "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus." Victoria Sutton led the congregation in Responsive Reading "True Greatness." Kaylan Sinclair had our pastoral prayer followed by Madison Warren welcoming everyone and going through the announcements that needed to be made. We are blessed to have such talent at St. Paul. Special music was done by Madison Warren who played a violin to "Cripple Creek." Kaylan Sinclair sang a very inspirational song entitled "All God's Children." Natalie Tart finished up special music singing "Beulah Land," stating that she hoped we each would see Beulah Land. Warren Burch and Madison Wilson did our offertory prayer, and Jordyn Eason took up the offering. Following the offering, Bratley asked the children to assemble at the front for the children's message, which was done by Taylor Raynor. Taylor brought Lucky the Turtle to church and the children were so excited. Taylor explained how hard it had been to find a turtle, but at the last minute Lucky was found. He explained that Lucky had a hard shell, which was his protection and compared it to God being our protector and keeping us safe. What a great promise for each of us—that God will take care of us and keep us safe, if we commit ourselves to Him. Tyler Sinclair and Natalie Tart gave messages. Tyler explained how much the congregation had meant to him and helped him to join the church, which he had just done a few weeks earlier. He went on the tell us how grateful he was for growing up in a Christian home and how important his family had been in leading him to Christ, and the example that his father, Dewain, and grandfathers have been in his life, and hopes one day that he can be as active in the church as they have been.

Natalie Tart spoke to our hearts about the choices that young people have in today's world and how difficult it can be to stand up for Jesus and what you believe in. She was grateful that Christ was such an important part of her life and thankful for the church and her family and all they have done to help her. She challenged us to keep Christ foremost in our lives and to live a life that is pleasing to Him and looked for the day that we would all be rejoicing in Beulah Land. The Rev. Braxton Carter made closing remarks. He applauded the youth for their hard work and great job they did.

The youth at St. Paul FWB Church bless our lives each day and always serve the Lord with all that they have. To know that we have such great servants in the making touches our hearts. I admire and appreciate the parents for the wonderful job they have done in raising their children in Christian homes and their commitment to bringing them to church. I appreciate the youth and their eagerness and willingness to take part in this special day. The things you say and do always touch our lives and we are so grateful that you serve our Lord with such excitement and grace. Yes, life is tough, but to our youth—we know that you are up to the tasks and challenges ahead of each of you. May you continue to let your light shine for others to see, knowing that God will bless your efforts.

SANDY HILL OFWB CHURCH NEWS

At Sunday night service on June 1, 2008, the congregation gathered in the church fellowship hall with Pastor Paul Nicholson to celebrate his four-year anniversary at New Sandy Hill Original Free Will Baptist Church. Pastor Nicholson is usually up-to-date with all that is going on in the church, but not this time.

At the close of the worship service, we gathered around the altar and joined hands to receive our prayer partners for the month. Just as we assembled together, a note was given to Pastor Nicholson with instructions to "please read this important announcement before dismissing." For once, Pastor Nicholson was at a loss for words. He was the only one at the church who was unaware of the celebration. We all joined together in the fellowship hall for light refreshments, and fellowship, as we expressed our appreciation to our pastor.

Pastor Nicholson, along with his wife, Betsy, and two children, Kelly, and Hannah, have been at work in our church for the past four years. We are working together to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and hope to continue to do so for many years to come. We love them and appreciate the work they are doing.

BLACK JACK GROVE FOOD FOR CHILDREN'S HOME

Pictured here are some youths of Black Jack Grove Church of Goldsboro NC. From the left are Mark Sevens, youth leader; Amber and Jason Sherman, wife and pastor; Joann Kennedy, youth leader; and some of the church youth who helped with the collection and loading of the van with food destined for the Free Will Baptist Children's Home at Middlesex. In addition, we collected $400 in the Change for Children drive.

Congratulations! Miss Alice Webster of Free Union FWB Church, Pinetown, NC reached the age of 103 in March. Many friends and relatives gathered at Ridgewood Manor to help her celebrate this milestone.

POWHATAN SPRING NEWS

Youth leaders Wanda Benson and Kristen Davis with the youth members in attendance at the Mother-Daughter Banquet on May 3.

Sixteen women from Powhatan attended the Morning Star retreat at Cragmont at the end of March. Woman's Auxiliary president Ann Narron drove the bus for the three days of fellowship. She was one of the three officers from Powhatan who attended the Cape Fear Spring meeting at Oak Grove on April 5, along with vice-president Jeanette Canady and corresponding secretary Rita Jones.

On Saturday, April 26, a *Relay for Life* fundraiser was held in the fellowship hall. Donna Fitzgerald held a "Pampered Chef" party with a percentage of all sales going to *Relay for Life*. Following the fundraiser, the youth sponsored a Fun Day with a cookout and softball game for youth and adults.

On Saturday, May 3, Harold Jones, just back from the field, presented a Cape Fear study course report on missions. Nine churches were represented at the informative and inspiring presentation.

The eighth annual Mother-Daughter Banquet was held on the evening of May 3 with about 38 in attendance. The theme was "string of Pearls" and the committee set up a "Dress-up" area so women could put on hats, gloves, jewelry, and boas to have photos taken, if they so chose. Sandra Peedin had a short devotion after the meal.

IN MEMORIAM:

Martha Hyde Jones, mother of the Rev. John Harris Jones of West Side, joined her late husband in heaven on April 29. She had been a worker for *Relay for Life*, donating a hand-made afghan for raffle last year in memory of her husband Danny. She was diagnosed with cancer in December of 2007. Please remember her family during this time of loss.

FINANCIAL INDEPENDECE

by Donald Fader

July 4th is the date inscribed on one of our countries most cherished documents, the Declaration of Independence. It is on this date we will celebrate our nation's independence. It is a time of parades, flying flags, speeches, fireworks, and picnics. Independence is synonymous with freedom and America is justifiably proud of its freedoms and the rights of her citizens.

Our founding fathers considered the rule of law imposed upon us by England to be unfair and that these laws restricted the rights and freedoms that were granted us by our Creator. They wrote in the Declaration that governments derived their power from the consent of the governed and the colonies positioned themselves to withhold that consent and "throw off such Government." These were lofty words but the men of the newly declared United States of America were willing to "mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

Our forefathers wanted to be free from the shackles that England placed on the colonies. A war was fought and many died to secure us the gift of liberty. As Americans, we consider ourselves free to enjoy the freedoms that come with our citizenship. And while we warm ourselves in the blanket of freedom there are many among us who know the cold chill that comes from being constrained and limited by the shackles we place upon ourselves.

What kind of shackles are we talking about? We live in the freest nation on Earth but many have exchanged their freedom for the things that the world considers important. They have borrowed against their future to live in the present buying the latest electronic wizardry, newest vehicles, and the finest clothes. They have all the toys but find little joy in ownership when the bill comes due.

Is it wrong to borrow money? I certainly hope not since lending money for homes is how I make my living. However, just as the Bible

Financial Planning: A Biblical Perspective

teaches moderation we to must learn how to manage our finances before our finances manage us. Foreclosures are reaching the levels of the late 1980s and while many are the result of investors and speculators trying to get rich quick there are families involved that have seen the dream of home ownership turn into a nightmare.

There are those who say you should never borrow money, while others borrow until the bank finally says no. Of course the correct answer is somewhere in the middle. Debt is a tool that when used properly can help you accomplish some of your most important dreams and goals. But just like any tool, debt is very dangerous if used incorrectly. Do you remember that commercial of the guy on the lawnmower? He was riding around the yard smiling, without seemingly a care in the world while the announcer was describing all the wonderful things he had. Finally, the announcer poses the question, "how do you think he was able to pay for those things?" The man on the mower replies, "I'm in debt up to my eyeballs, somebody help me..., please."

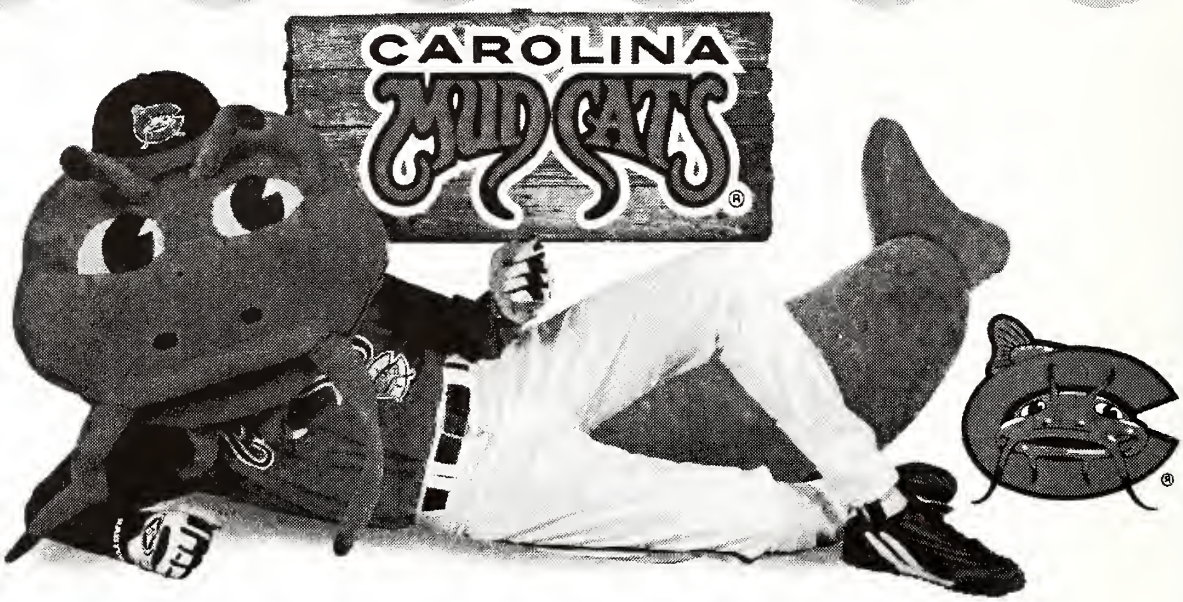
Debt can be useful when it finances assets that gain in value, for example, your home. But even if you finance your home, as most of us do, it is important to pay off the debt as quickly as you can. Since you have to live somewhere and the interest on a primary residence is deductible why shouldn't you stretch out the payments as long as possible?

The deductibility argument works like this. For every dollar in interest you pay the IRS allows those who itemize to reduce their pre-tax income by this amount. So does that mean the IRS pays your interest cost in reduced taxes? No! Notice you are allowed to reduce your income not your tax burden. This means you have a lower amount of income exposed to taxation but it is not a dollar for dollar reduction in taxes. If you are in a 25% tax bracket and deduct $1,000 in interest your tax burden is reduced by $250 dollars. The other $750 dollars is gone. The bank gets to keep that. Clearly this is not the dollar for dollar trade off some had imagined and, while it helps, it is not a reason to go into debt.

You should also consider that if you buy a $150,000 house and finance $120,000 at 6% for 30 years your principal and interest payment will be $719.46. If you paid that amount each month for 30 years you will pay a total of $259,005.60. That's a whopping $139,000 in interest out of your pocket. Your response is, "it can't be helped, and I need to buy a home."

Maybe it can be helped. Suppose you tightened your belt and instead of paying $719.46, you rounded it up to $1,000 dollars per month. That may mean that you have to make some changes in your present lifestyle but let's look at what could happen. At $1,000 per month that same $120,000 will be paid off in 184 months which means your total cost has been $184,000 instead of $259,005 or a savings of $75,000. Who does that $75,000 belong to? That's your money, money that you can use for anything. Most importantly you have gained your freedom. Declare your independence!

"The rich rules over the poor, And the borrower becomes the lender's slave" (Proverbs 22:7).



Please join us for the 5th Annual
Paper and Cleaning Products Drive
Friday, July 25, 2008 at 7:15 P.M.
Fireworks Night!

Paper and Cleaning products will be collected at gates to benefit
Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Middlesex, NC.
The Layman's League of Spring Branch Church has joined once again with the Carolina Mudcats to promote a day to help the Children's Home. On July 25, the Mudcats are going to have bins set up at the entrances of their stadium for people to bring paper/cleaning products for the Children's Home. This is a great opportunity for your Layman's League, Woman's Auxiliaries, and Youth groups to begin, even now, to collect paper/cleaning products and bring them to Tri-County Stadium on that day. There is a discount for tickets purchased in bulk and would make a great day of ministry and fun.
(Last year we had over 33 churches in attendance)

All Church groups registered in advance will receive:
$5 Box Seat Special (regular price—$8)
To receive this special discount, all tickets must be paid for by July 14. Discount is not available at the gate. Tickets will be mailed within 10 days prior to the game. Paper Products will be dropped off at the stadium.

Paper and Cleaning Products Drive Questions? Call Bill Doane (252) 753-3717	**Mudcats Questions? Call Joshua Bridges (919) 269-2287**

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Life is a fragment, a moment between two eternities; influenced by all that has preceded, and to influence all that follows. The only way to illumine it is by extent of view.

—William Ellery Channing:
Notebook: Life

Churches & Ministry Positions Available

THE REV. A. G. SMITH is available for the following services: fill-in, interim, and revivals. He can be reached by phone at (252) 523-3930 or (252) 524-1533 or by mail at 185 Will Baker Rd., Kinston, NC 28504.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, Lucama, NC is seeking a part-time or full-time youth pastor. If interested, please call Greg Davis at (919) 868-8674.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR/YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED

We are seeking a full-time Associate Pastor/Youth Minister to serve at the Winterville FWB Church in Winterville, NC. We are a body of believers committed to the Lord and we are searching for an individual of like faith and practice. We are characterized by a strong commitment to God, fellowship, discipleship, missions, and ministry.

The candidate should have the ability to work as a team member with our pastor and lay leaders and should be committed to excellence in personal, family, and congregational conduct. We seek an individual who, first and foremost, has a passion for God and then a clear call and desire to minister to young people in concert with their families.

Specific responsibilities include overseeing the youth ministry and the successful candidate will assume additional pastoral responsibilities as directed by the pastor. The individual must be able to encourage the youth in their spiritual walk as well as provide Christian fellowship through outreach programs, mission trips, and other appropriate activities. Applicant should have a calling, a vision, and a strategy for the youth ministry while working closely with the pastor.

If you sense God's prompting to pursue this opportunity, please e-mail your resumé to <eforlines@suddenlink.net> or you can mail your resumé to Associate Pastor/Youth Minister, ATTN: Pulpit Committee, 2925 Jolly Road, Winterville, NC 28590-7793.

Attention Pastors and Patrons

A View From the Pew: A Tribute to Pastors,

was written to express appreciation and respect to pastors that the author has known during 65 years as a member of the Free Will Baptist faith.

This book is in recognition of the faith, teaching, and preaching of our pastors. It is not about any specific pastors.

Originally released in hardcover, the book is now available in paperback.

Copies are available, for a limited time, at the Free Will Baptist Press, Ayden, NC (or one of its branch stores in Kinston and New Bern), for half-price **($6)**.

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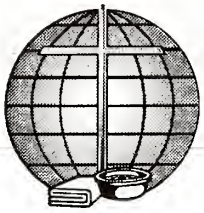

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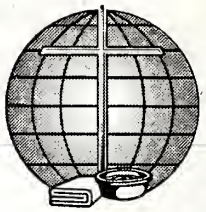

August 2008

OFWB HERITAGE MONTH

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Camp Morelos, Mexico—OFWBI (2–10)
3	4 Pee Dee Youth Conference @ Cragmont (4–7)	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Youth Worker's Summit @ MOC	14	15	16
17	18	19 Women's Mini Conference @ Cragmont (19–21)	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

NOTE:

Color(s) for the season: The basic color is green, which symbolizes growth in Christ. Red may be used on civic holidays.

COMING SOON:

September 1: Labor Day

Sunday School Curriculum Reminder: A new quarter of literature begins the first Sunday of September. If you need to make additions/changes to your order, contact the FWB Press by phone at (800) 849-3927 ext. 3 or by e-mail at <faye@fwbpress.com>.

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POWER VERSE

He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known (Proverbs 10:9).

Forgetting Joseph?

by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer

"Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph" (Exodus 1:8). Students of the Word will know the background and implications of this verse at the beginning of the Book of Exodus. At this time the descendant of Joseph had increased in number until they posed a threat to the new king's power. "And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceedingly mighty: and the land was filled with them" (v. 7). The time of this great increase was probably about a hundred years, and as suggested in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, page 108, and the number "may have been about two million." It is not that the new king had never heard of Joseph and how the Israelites came to Egypt; he simply cared nothing about Joseph's greatness and accomplishments.

Thus, we pose the question, "Is America forgetting Joseph?" For us, it is not a matter of literally forgetting a famous person(s), but a more serious matter of forgetting the values and principles that had kept America strong.

America is changing. Of this we are sure. In technology, we can hardly keep pace, and such advances have proven advantageous. It's not these things that are so bothersome and disturbing, but the moral decline and reinterpretation of traditional values that creates our deep concern (of which we have alluded to in several "Reflections.")

These are indeed troublesome times, when liberal twists twists are being applied to our Constitution and Bill of Rights. Morality, in the minds of many, is determined by one's own opinions and conscience. What the Bible says does not matter and many refuse to adhere to its teachings. Many others know nothing of its teachings.

We recently celebrated another July 4, Independence Day. As usual, we sang our Patriotic songs, viewed firework displays, had our cookouts with family and friends, and in our prayers thanked our God who has blessed us so greatly. Our prayers must continue and with greater fervor, thanking Him for His goodness, mercy, and grace.

This indeed a great country. He has made it so. And we keep thinking about the thousands upon thousands of faithful Christians who will keep it great. May God continue to bless our America.

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Graduation: A Family Affair

by Stephanie Creech, Daily Times Senior Writer
(This article is reprinted, with permission, by the Wilson Daily Times*).*

A variety of ties bind families together.

Tim and Robin McFatter of Wilson have a recurring tie that binds them to their children when it comes to school and graduations.

Earlier this month, Robin graduated from Wilson Community College and became a registered nurse. Tonight, her youngest daughter, Whitney, will graduate from Wilson Christian Academy.

Ironically, years ago when Whitney graduated from kindergarten, she did so at the same time Tim, now pastor of Unity Free Will Baptist Church in Wilson, graduated from Bible college. In addition, Robin and her oldest daughter, Stephanie, graduated from Wilson Community College together and became licensed practical nurses.

The graduation bond in the family is expected to continue if Stephanie, who plans to become a registered nurse, and Whitney, who will enter Johnston Community College this fall to study photography, stay on track and graduate together in a few years from now.

For now, the McFatter family is focused on celebrating this latest educational milestone. Several family parties are planned. Robin and Whitney are equally proud of each other's accomplishments.

"I know she's really smart," Whitney said. "She can do anything if she puts her mind to it."

Whitney praised her mother for keeping up her grades even though Robin's mother was ill and recently died.

"She stuck with it and did really good," Whitney said.

Robin, 44, hopes she's teaching her daughters that learning doesn't stop when you're 18 or 22 because you might have different dreams later in life.

"You can keep learning and keep going back to school," Robin said.

Robin's dreams changed over the years. She spent 15 years at home raising and home schooling her daughters. Robin said she wouldn't trade that time in her life for anything in the world because at that time being home with her girls was her purpose in life.

"As they got older, I got a different dream," Robin said.

When Stephanie graduated from high school she expressed an interest in becoming a nurse. However, she lacked confidence in herself. But Robin encouraged her daughter to pursue her dream. Robin and Stephanie entered nursing school together. They became licensed practical nurses in 2005.

Robin went to work at Wayne Memorial Hospital in Goldsboro and worked for a year. She then took advantage of a program at Wayne Memorial which allowed her to return to school and to remain a hospital employee.

Robin works in oncology and finds purpose and comfort in being with dying patients. Robin said a lot of patients leave this world when their families aren't there. She considers it an opportunity to be the person holding their hands as patients take their last breath.

"It's not just caring for somebody, it's also a spiritual experience being able to help people in their last days or moments," Robin said.

Robin said Whitney has a real eye for catching things she might not always see. That's one of the reasons why Robin thinks her daughter will make a good photographer.

"I want to do something I would enjoy and be excited about getting up and going to work and not dreading it," Whitney said of a career. "I like to take pictures of people and things. Photography is something that gets my interest. I think I'd be good at it."

Whitney has been a student at Wilson Christian Academy for three years. She's ready to get out of high school.

"I like that I have somebody I can celebrate it with," Whitney said. "I'm excited she's making accomplishments at the same time I am."

Becoming You

by Faye H. Carraway

Rise to the great potential within yourself and reach beyond your capacity and simply do what you can do in the best way you know how. Do not nag yourself with thoughts of failure. If you succeed with your best, you will witness miracles come to pass.

Life is not a series of great heroic moments or acts of heroism, but life at its best is a matter of goodness and decency in people. You can become larger than life if you can do without the fanfare, the confetti, and the ticker tape parades and just be yourself. Trust in the Lord and those around you. Ordinary men and women that train their minds and their hands to serve others do the work for the Lord. If you are kind and thoughtful and helpful, you will never feel inferior. There are always opportunities out there that whatever talents God gave you, will happen if you believe you can succeed.

God has a special purpose for us in mind and it will take everything we have in us to find out what that is. Never underestimate the strength you have inside yourself. Having the strength to go the extra mile will help you to make a difference in someone's life today. You have a destiny to be fulfilled and only the Lord can show you the way to begin.

My Beloved Mattie

by Celia Hales

There are many stories about a family friend named Mattie Hopkins. She served as my grandmother's cook, on and off, for years; she was my confidant in matters of the heart (i.e., my boyfriends); and she cared for tiny babies in people's homes for the first two weeks of an infant's homecoming, for she was a licensed practical nurse who specialized in babies. But I want to articulate how deeply I loved her, and still do, even though for 19 years she has been beyond the veil of death.

Mattie had the gift of second sight, as she called it. Mostly, she dreamed of situations and learned things in her dreams that nobody had ever told her. Before I was born, she knew I would be a girl, and she dreamed of holding my little girl's hand as she and I walked down very long roads together. My husband, Paul, says that the roads represent my life, and moreover, the reason that I have never dreamed of Mattie is because she is always with me. Every night Paul steps part way up the stairs after dinner and then leans over the railing to kiss the top of my head. This was my "sweet spot," according to Mattie, and this is where she always kissed me.

Mattie was African American in the era of a segregated society. She knew society wasn't fair to her sometimes, but she reassured me, "I am happy, child. Don't you worry about me."

When Paul and I wed, Mattie was living in retirement with her daughter in Maryland. I sent a huge package of pictures and the local town feature on our garden wedding. On our first Christmas together as a married couple, Paul and I recorded a cassette tape—60 minutes—to tell Mattie all we could remember of our courtship and young marriage. And we sent her a boom-box so she could surely listen to our tape. Mattie had sent word to me via my grandmother that Paul was the right husband for me. Of course, she had dreamed it.

In many respects, my relationship to Mattie could not be understood outside the South. It is a blessing to be able to tell about my love for her in Oxford, Mississippi (where I live), and in North Carolina (where *The Free Will Baptist* is published).

I put on my best clothing on September 6, 1989. I wore my favorite blouse—a silk pink creation that made me feel prettier than I could ever actually be. I added a blue plaid wool skirt with threads of pink; the wool was because this was Minnesota, and I needed the warmth. I finish the outfit with a pearl and diamond necklace given me by my parents. Regardless of what anybody else might think, I felt pretty. I thought my careful preparation in clothing was because this day was my 43rd birthday. But little did I know.

The phone rang early on Saturday, September 7. My husband Paul and I were awakened, for we enjoyed a weekend respite from our jobs. It was Irma Lee Coleman, Mattie's daughter. She said, in the voice that sounded just like Mattie, "Child, there is something that I have to tell you. Mama died yesterday morning."

I gasped, and then said, "Oh, no!" Then Irma Lee went on, "She didn't even disturb the bed covers. She was turned toward the wall, and I went in as I always do, and said, 'Good morning, Mrs. Hopkins!' I called her that when I was loving her. 'Time to get up!' But she didn't move, and I went over to touch her and found she was gone."

"Oh, no," I said again. Irma Lee then moved to comfort me. "But, child," she said, "she couldn't walk anymore, and she was 89, remember. And she died in her sleep."

"She died on my birthday, Irma Lee," I said. "My birthday was yesterday." Suddenly the joy I had felt at work yesterday seemed very far away. Irma Lee and Paul talked a bit. "Thank you for calling," Paul said. Irma Lee concluded, "It was the best way to go. It was her time."

Years later now, I ponder that September 6. I remember my joy. Believing as I do in an afterlife, was Mattie close by as I served on the reference desk at my library? Did she like my outfit? Maybe I had, somewhere in my mind, dressed for Mattie more than for my birthday. And the love that I felt for her continues still.

Original Free Will Baptist Headquarters

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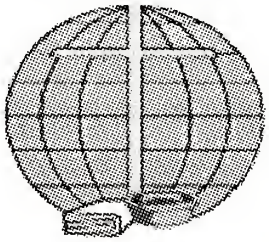

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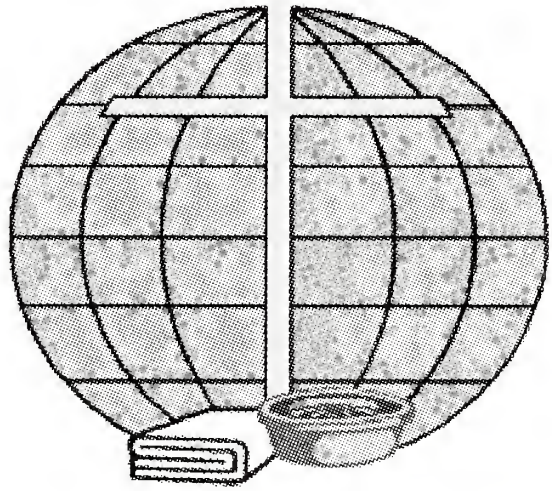
AUGUST is...

HERITAGE MONTH

Have you ever researched your family tree? If so, then you know something about your family heritage. Original Free Will Baptists can be very proud of our roots. Why not visit the Historical Room at Mount Olive College during the month of August to learn more about your Christian family's beginnings. You will be inspired by the vision and courage of our founding fathers.

The Ministries of our denomination are able to carry on the work assigned to them because of the faithful support of friends and family like you. The Convention is where all of these ministries were born. We, too, depend upon your generosity to fulfill the mission given to us. Your special offering this month will help us continue that work. Thank you.

Celebrating Two Hundred Eighty-One Years
of Christian Witness



The Convention of Original Free Will Baptists
1727–2008

The 12th Annual Original Free Will Baptist Convention

Open Golf Fellowship

Monday, October 6, 2008
Happy Valley Country Club
Wilson, NC

FORMAT: 4-Man Superball • 9 A.M. Shotgun Start

TEES: **Junior**: Under 50—Back Tee • **Senior**: 50 to 59—Middle Tee • **Super Senior**: 60+—Front Tee

TWO PLAYING DIVISIONS: Open Play—Through Age 59
Super Senior—At least three players 60+

Special Prizes For: Closest to the Pin — Straightest Drive — 50/50 Putt Challenge*

WIN $10,000 CASH – CARNIVAL CRUISE – GOLF VACATION – GOLF CLUBS AND BAG

This Tournament is limited to the first 25 teams with paid entry fees.
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DISCLAIMER: This tournament is sponsored by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. **By your signature below, your team agrees to the following**: **1)** No alcoholic beverages will be allowed. Violation will result in immediate dismissal from this tournament with forfeiture of all fees paid. **2)** Members of your team will not hold the Convention, its Executive and Tournament Committee, the Tournament Director, or Happy Valley Country Club, its members or staff liable for loss due to personal injury, weather, theft, or the conduct of other players. **3)** The decisions of the Tournament Committee in all matters will be final.

Signed: _____ Team Captain

TEAM MEMBERS

Captain: _____

Captain's Address: _____

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Player 2: _____

Player 3: _____

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TEAM DIVISION
(check one)

____ Open
(Through age 59)

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Happy Valley Country Club, Wilson, North Carolina

Sponsor Information

Greetings from Original Free Will Baptist Headquarters in Ayden, North Carolina. We pray that God is blessing your business and that you are blessed as well.

The 12th Annual Original Free Will Baptist Golf Fellowship Tournament is scheduled for 9 A.M. Monday, October 6, 2008 at Happy Valley Country Club in Wilson, North Carolina. This great event brings in well over 100 golfers and their families from all over eastern North Carolina and from as far away as Asheville, Charlotte, Raleigh, and Durham. It is a great day of fellowship and fun for everyone. Sponsors like you help to provide wonderful gifts, spectacular prizes, great food, and so much more for all participants. At this tournament, no one walks away empty-handed...everyone is a winner. And we trust that you will help us maintain that standard by beginning or continuing your sponsorship.

Here is a list of sponsorships available to you. Your business name will appear on the sign at each hole.

EVENT	YOUR CONTRIBUTION
_____ Hole and Putting Green Sponsor Board	$100
_____ Straightest Drive Competition	$100
_____ Closest to the Pin Competition (4 holes)	$100 each. (How many? 1 2 3 4)
_____ Hole in One Competition (One Hole for $10,000 cash)	$350

Sponsorship of the $10,000 Hole will also receive sponsorship of 3 additional holes at no extra charge.

The above competitions will be determined as play is in progress. All golfers will participate in each event at the designated hole.

The following event will take place after play has ended. Participants will be determined during the course of tournament play. Your business name will be placed on a sign board next to the putting area. This event will take place while all golfers and staff are in close proximity to the putting area.

_____ 50/50 Putting Competition Your cost is just $200

All sponsors will also be spotlighted at the awards presentations at the conclusion of the tournament. It will truly be a great day for everyone. All proceeds from this tournament will be directed toward the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists for use in ministry to the local churches and outreach evangelism throughout the denomination.

Thank you for your support of this great event. If you have questions or need more information, don't hesitate to contact me at (252) 746-4963 or by e-mail at <buddy.sasser@ofwb.org>. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

To participate, simply check the sponsorship you would like to own. Return this letter along with the correct sponsorship amount to:

Thanks again and may God Bless,
Buddy Sasser, Tournament Director

Buddy Sasser
c/o OFWB Headquarters
P.O. Box 39
Ayden, North Carolina 28513

Make your check payable to: OFWB Convention / Golf Tournament

Mother's Day Storm and Playground Equipment

This past spring, Mother's Day, to be exact, we received some damaging winds which blew down many trees on the property. Many of them are oaks. It has made me wonder if God is preparing us for a harsh winter. No buildings were damaged in any way. But, the swing set located in the front yard was. We decided it was time for it to come down. During the taking down process I thought on what would replace it. Some who have attended events at Cragmont in the past have suggested that we consider a playground. Upon doing some quick checking it is clear that approximately $80,000 will be needed to get quality equipment. We are accepting gifts toward the purchase of playground equipment now. Just earmark your check "playground."

Please also note! We are still paying down the debt on the new lodge. Currently, we owe $287,074 and we still need gifts toward this building.

Vacation With Us/Senior Citizens Offer

Our current price of fuel has caused many to plan very carefully how family vacations will be done. Consider Cragmont in your vacation plans. We are located within an hour's drive of many things to do. Our rates are reasonable plus you have the advantage of a quiet and peaceful environment on 116 acres. Things to do include rafting, hiking, Lake Lure and Chimney Rock Park, Biltmore House, gem mining and the list goes on.

While on the subject of traveling and visiting Cragmont, I would like to make an offer to "senior citizens" groups. You may come to Cragmont for half-price during the months of September and November any Sunday thru Thursday morning breakfast. That's Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights. All nights and meals at half-price.

Something New

The days of a week-long conference for Women is much less in demand than it was in the late 1970s and early to mid 1980s. Fewer and fewer women have the time to take off a full week from jobs and family life to attend such a conference. Therefore, the Woman's Auxiliary is trying to change and adapt to the needs of women by trying another long weekend conference this fall. The name of the Conference is "September Women's Weekend Retreat" and the dates for it are September 19–21. The speaker is Becky Jo Sumner from Hickory Chapel OFWB Church in Ahoskie, NC. Ladies, this would be a great time to get together with other ladies of your church for a spiritual and relaxing weekend in the mountains at Cragmont. Send your registration to Joan Little, 7063 Stantonsburg Rd., Farmville, NC 27828. Her phone number is (252) 753-3217.

The Cragmont Club

The Cragmont Club was established to help maintain a healthy cash flow throughout the year. Each year the Club is responsible for bringing in approximately $30,000, much of which will arrive on a monthly schedule. While the Club will give you and your immediate family members certain benefits, it is our hope that the greatest benefit you receive is knowing that you are helping to support an important ministry of the denomination. For $15 per month you and your immediate family may spend a weekend or the equivalent of a weekend (three nights) at Cragmont at no cost. To join the Club send in your first $15 earmarked for "Cragmont Club."

Camp Schedule 2008

General Youth II Conference
July 7–12, 2008
John Robert Harris/Brad Williamson
PO Box 1141
Kinston, NC 28503
(252) 522-4505

Young People's Bible Conference
July 21–25, 2008
Chuck Owens
1071 Gurley Dairy Rd.
Pikeville, NC 28711
(919) 734-3320

Pee Dee Youth Conference
Bryant Hines
2030 Bear Grass Rd.
Robersonville, NC 27871
(252) 670-8424

General Youth I Conference
July 14–19, 2008
Bryant Hines
2030 Bear Grass Rd.
Robersonville, NC 27871
(252) 670-8424

August Women's Aux. Conference
July 27–August 1, 2008
Joan Little
7063 Stantonsburg Rd.
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

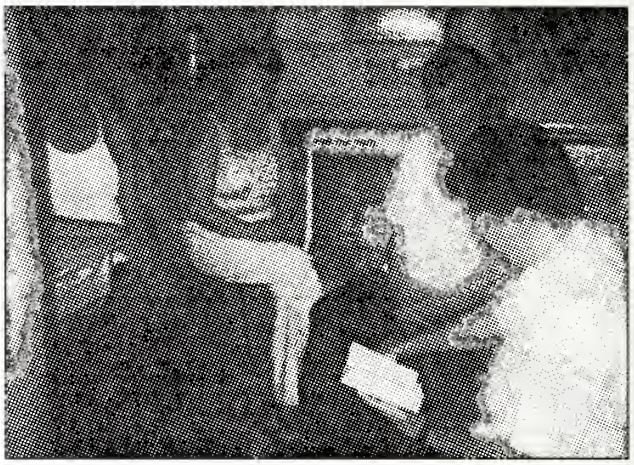
September Women's Weekend Retreat
Joan Little
7063 Stantonsburg Rd.
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-3217

Available Dates

August 8–10	dorms
August 11–14	upstairs main, lodge, motel, dorms
August 15–17	4 lodge rooms, dorms
August 18–27	main, motel, lodge, dorms
August 28–31	9 lodge rooms, motel, dorms, Hollifield House
September 1–3	everything
September 4–10	main, motel, dorms, Hollifield House
September 11–14	motel, dorm, Hollifield House
September 15–17	everything
September 18–21	north main, Hollifield House, dorm
September 22–25	everything
September 26–28	one dorm, Hollifield House
September 29–October 1	everything
October 2–5	one dorm
October 6–8	everything
October 13–15	main, 9 lodge rooms, 7 motel, dorms, Hollifield House
October 22–22	motel, dorms, Hollifield House
October 27–29	6 lodge rooms, motel, dorms, Hollifield House
November 3–5	everything
November 6–9	main south end, dorms, Hollifield House
November 10–12	everything
November 13–16	dorms, Hollifield House
November 17–19	everything
November 20–23	dorms, Hollifield House
November 24–26	everything
November 27–30	call for availability
December 6–10	everything
December 11–14	dorms
December 15–31	everything

HOME BIBLE STUDY
QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES

by Marvie Flores Cuba



One of our brothers, Abel Carlon, in Talalan, Quezon City, committed his life to helping God's ministry here in Manila. He has two small businesses. He is very busy, but he gives time to the Lord to help proclaim and study God's Word. He has a burden to reach out to lost people by making contacts for Bible studies. Pastor Arnel Cuba follows up and shares the Word of God with the contacts. In the picture below, they are in the house of Brother Philemon, a retired seaman, together with his wife and brother, Abel. They were happy and listened intently to the teachings of Pastor Cuba. The Bible study is help every Monday.

Please pray for us that we will grow spiritually and bear much fruit through these Bible studies.

THE FRUIT OF OUR LABOR
BETHEL MISSION, RAMOS, MEXICO

by the Reverend Antonio Escobar

In the Bethel Mission we have established ten families with which we have been working for the past year. We have been working with them in programs of studies in the mission and in their homes. They learn and participate as families. These Bible studies are taught each week in different homes. This has strengthened their spiritual lives. They have come to know and accept Christ as their personal Savior. Seven people from these families were baptized in the month of June.

Many of these people were deeply involved in idolatry, but the Lord has given us the opportunity to reach these homes with the plan of salvation and tell them that the only Mediator is the Lord Jesus Christ. This has not been easy, and to convert them even more difficult. It gives us great satisfaction to see these people singing and praising God and learning the Bible. Many of them have said to us, "What would have become of us, if you had not come to tell us the Word of God?" And so to us, this is a great joy to know that the Lord has used us to be a blessing to these families. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Some of the congregation at Bethel Mission

Home Bible Study

CARD MAKING

by Tezdjan

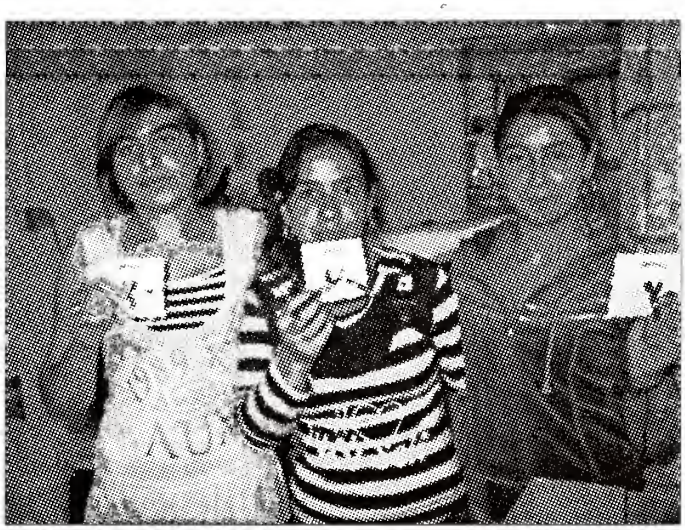
Early summer, last year, Willem brought in the office a very nice greeting card, which he received from a friend in Holland. We have nice cards from many other friends, but the special matter with this one is that it has been made out of wall paper; a simple design and earthly colors. The simplicity and beauty led us to the plan of making cards of the same material with some our youth. These cards we can make for all kind of occasions and legally be sold through the Foundation to support our funds for the new building. It will not bring in fortunes, but every penny counts.

We shared the idea with Danny, the sister-in-law of Willem and Lydia. She is a caring friend to all of us. Danny promised to mail us special wall paper, scissors, and handicraft books with some models for envelope making, which we received in February last winter.

The first cards and envelopes we made with the youth for our Easter Services, which we held on April 27 this year. Everybody liked our invitations and after three days we received a request to make 100 invitations for a special celebration. The youth were enthusiast about it; Ferian, Jeilan, and Bebek learned fast to produce the new models Tezdjan developed for this occasion. After one week the cards were ready. We worked every day from seven o'clock until nine in the evening. Two of the girls counted them three times and the number was exactly 100 copies. We thanked the Lord for giving us all together the strength and patience to fulfill this task! We hope to meet soon some other customers.

The money we earned with this project was B.Lev 45.00 (forty five leva), which is equivalent to $37.50 USD. The profit will be donated to the building fund for the planned center, while a small part of this amount will be given to the youth who made the cards, for buying some bread.

We are so thankful that the Lord has provided ways to earn some extra money that we can add to the contribution of the funds for our planned center. We pray that the mercy of God will remain upon us and His Spirit will renew in us every day, so that we may serve Him to our utmost spiritually and physically. We enjoy every effort that we undertake to make God's plan happen.



Change For Children Campaign 2008

This year we started our twelfth Change For Children campaign. As of July 2, 2008, we have received more than $44,000 from churches and individuals for this campaign. Monies are still coming in, so we don't have the final total. Updates will be given in the upcoming issues of *The Free Will Baptist*.

Each year in March when we start preparing for the Change For Children campaign, we begin by asking all of our denominational pastors to remind their congregation to pray for the Children's Home ministry. We wish to thank each one who remembered the Home in prayer, as well as sent in their change. Please continue to lift up the Children's Home in your prayers, as we continue to minister to children in need.

Friends of Children's Day—2008

It is time to make your plans to attend our annual Friends of Children's Day Celebration. Our Friends of Children's celebration is a day we set aside to express our gratitude to all of our special friends. Please mark you calendars now, and plan to share lunch with us and spend an afternoon of fun and fellowship at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.

When: November 22, 2008
Where: Whitley Center
Time: 12 NOON
Speaker: The Rev. Johnny Sullivan, Daniels Chapel Church, Wilson, NC

Campus Visitors

Recently, the Rev. Nelson Rollins, pastor of Saint's Delight Church in New Bern, and wife, Abby, came to the Children's Home for a visit. They dropped off food and supplies, and brought their Change for Children collection. They took a brief tour while here.

We appreciate all of the efforts of the churches that have helped with our food budget through food donations and gift cards.

Campus Needs

- Bed Pillows
- 33 gallon or larger trash receptacles
- Personal Hygiene Items
- Kitchen Towels
- Cleaning Supplies and Paper Products
- Digital Camera
- Photo Paper

OPPORTUNITIES AT MOC

Space Available: Space is still available for Fall 2008 at Mount Olive College. First time college attenders and college transfers can apply online at <www.moc.edu> and arrange a campus tour by contacting <admissions@moc.edu> or by calling (800) 653-0854.

Welcome Week, Saturday, August 16–Friday, August 22, 2008.
Mount Olive College welcomes recent high school graduates and college transfers to the Fall 08 semester.

- Welcome Week for new freshmen will begin Saturday, August 16, 2008. Residents will be able to move in starting at 9 A.M. Parents are invited to attend the welcome assembly with their children. The remainder of the day will include sessions on college survival skills and how to get involved on campus. Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday will be devoted to freshman seminar, computer security, community service project, career survey, writing workshops, worship services, and wellness and scholarship meetings. Contact Tim Woodard, director of admissions at <twoodard@moc.edu> or by calling (800) 653-0854 for more information.
- Continuing students arrive Tuesday, August 19, 2008.
- Classes begin August 20, 2008.
- Last day to add/drop classes is Friday, August 22, 2008.

Summer Graduation: August 26, 2008, 7 P.M., Kornegay Arena

Transform your life and career at MOC—One Night A Week: One night a week programs, designed for working adults, are offered at convenient locations in Mount Olive, Johnston Community College, New Bern, Washington, Wilmington, and Research Triangle Park, NC. To learn about the most convenient location for your region, call 1 (800) NEW GOAL. You will be connected to the location nearest you.

Evening College at Mount Olive:
Contact Allison Sullivan at <asullivan@moc.edu> or call (800) 653-0854.
Heritage begins August 25, 2008 at Mount Olive, 6–10 P.M.
Management and Organizational Development (MOD) begins August 28, 2008 at Johnston Community College (JCC), 6–10 P.M.
Health Care Management (HCM) begins September 22, 2008 at Johnston Community College (JCC), 6–10 P.M.
Early Child Education (ECE) begins September 8, 2008 at Mount Olive and February 5, 2009, at JCC, 6–10 P.M.
Criminal Justice and Criminology (CJC) Online begins Saturday, January 17, 2009. Orientation 9 A.M. at Mount Olive. All other classes online.
Religion (MRM) begins April 20, 2009 at Mount Olive, 6–10 P.M.
MIS begins May 28, 2009 at Mount Olive, 6–10 P.M.

Mount Olive College at New Bern:
Contact Vaughn Purnell at <vpurnell@moc.edu> or call 1 (800) NEW GOAL
Heritage (AS degree) Program begins October 1, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
CJC begins on October 23, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
ECE begins November 4, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
MOD begins November 8, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
HCM begins November 10, 2008, 6–10 P.M.

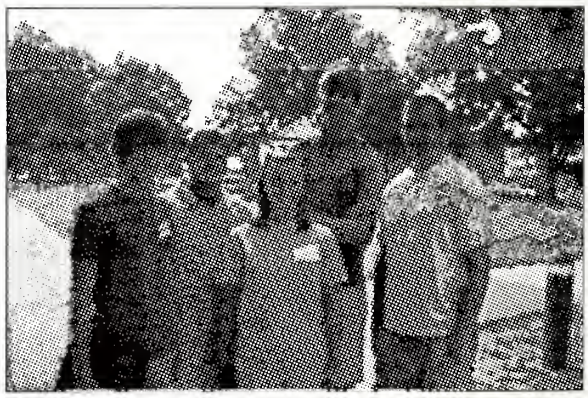
Mount Olive College at Washington:
Contact Dr. Evan Duff at <eduff@moc.edu> or call 1 (800) NEW GOAL
HCM begins August 12, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
MOD begins August 25, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
ECE begins September 4, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
CJC begins October 21, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
Heritage (AS degree) begins October 27, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
Religion begins November 13, 2008, 6–10 P.M.

Mount Olive College at Research Triangle Park:
Contact Dr. Robin Spaid at <rspaid@moc.edu> or call 1 (800) NEW GOAL
MOD begins August 25, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
Heritage begins September 8, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
HCM begins September 22, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
CJC begins September 29, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
ECE begins October 27, 2008, 6–10 P.M.

Mount Olive College at Wilmington:
Contact Dr. Marna Davenport at <mdavenport@moc.edu> or call 1 (800) NEW GOAL
MOD begins August 4, and November 5, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
Heritage (AS degree) begins August 20, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
HCM begins September 8, 2008, 6–10 P.M.
CJC begins October 9, 2008, 6–10 P.M.

FWB STUDENTS AT FRESHMAN ADVISING DAY

Pictured to the right are the following FWB students who attended Freshman Advising Day in late June. These students have been accepted at Mount Olive College for the fall semester. Left to Right: Ronnie Sturgill, Sandy Plain Church, Duplin County; Alex Howard, Milbournie Church, Wilson County; Abigail Earle, Little Rock Church, Wilson County; Eric Williams, Stoney Creek Church, Wayne County; and Robert Franks, Stoney Creek Church, Wayne County. FWB students also attending, but not pictured above were Jordan Corbett, Dilda's Grove Church, Pitt County and H. D. Grady, Pearsall Church, Duplin County.



2008 PLANNING SESSIONS FOR MOC DINNERS

The schedule for the Planning Sessions for the 2008 dinners are listed below. Mount Olive College is a ministry of the Free Will Baptist Church brought into being to provide educational services for the church. Each church is encouraged to have a representative and its pastor attend the planning session where up to date information will be provided and plans made for the annual College dinner. For additional information please contact Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support, at (919) 658-7744 or 1 (800) 653-0854 or <jfackiss@moc.edu>.

WAYNE COUNTY, Thursday, August 7, 7:30 P.M., First Church of Goldsboro

BEAUFORT COUNTY, Friday, August 8, 7:30 P.M., Free Union Church near Pinetown

NASH COUNTY, Sunday, August 10, 3:00 P.M., Free Union Church near Spring Hope

LENOIR COUNTY, Monday, August 11, 7:30 P.M., First Church of Kinston (651 Sussex Street)

EDGCOMBE COUNTY, Tuesday, August 12, 7:00 P.M., Peace Church Pinetops

GREENE COUNTY, Thursday, August 14, 7:30 P.M., Hull Road Church near Snow Hill

PEE DEE ASSOCIATION, Friday, August 15, 7:30 P.M., Beaverdam Church near Chadbourn

PAMLICO COUNTY, Sunday, August 17, 3:00 P.M., Rock of Zion Church, Grantsboro

PITT COUNTY, Monday, August 18, 7:30 P.M., Reedy Branch Church near Winterville

DUPLIN COUNTY, Tuesday, August 19, 7:30 P.M., Cabin Church near Beulaville

WASHINGTON, MARTIN, TYRRELL, AND PASQUOTANK COUNTIES, Thursday, August 21, 7:30 P.M., Mount Tabor Church near Creswell

ONSLOW-BRUNSWICK COUNTIES, Friday, August 22, 7:00 P.M., Folkstone Church, Folkstone

JONES COUNTY, Sunday, August 24, 3:00 P.M., Friendship Church near Trenton

WILSON COUNTY, Monday, August 25, 7:30 P.M., Daniels Chapel Church near Wilson

CRAVEN COUNTY, Thursday, August 28, 7:30 P.M., Saint Mary's Church, Ruby Hancock SS Classroom, New Bern

CARTERET COUNTY, Friday, August 29, 7:00 P.M., Crab Point Church, Morehead City

JOHNSTON-WAKE COUNTIES, Tuesday, September 2, 7:30 P.M., First Church of Smithfield

SAMPSON, HARNETT, AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES, Thursday, September 4, 7:30 P.M., Oak Grove Church near Newton Grove

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE ANNOUNCES PRESIDENTAL SEARCH

A Presidential Search Committee, assigned to recommend candidates for the presidency of Mount Olive College, has been appointed by Board of Trustees Chairman Darrell Horne.

The committee had their first meeting on Thursday, July 17 at which time they discussed the position description as indicated below.

Mount Olive College President
Position Description

The president serves as the chief executive officer of Mount Olive College and reports to the Board of Trustees. He or she is charged to provide leadership in working with the Board to develop a vision for the progress of the College and to lead the administration of the College in the strategic management of goals and resources to fulfill the mission. The ability to encompass the broad view of the opportunities and responsibilities confronting the College at all its locations while attending to the details essential to successful operations are necessary attributes. Interpersonal skills reflecting an appreciation for the contributions of a wide spectrum of persons who serve the College including students, faculty, staff, trustees, alumni, donors and volunteers must be evident in the words and deeds of the president.

Personal characteristics will include a demonstrated commitment to a leadership style capable of "enhancing the possible" for providing approaches to educating a diverse assemblage of students in creative and enabling ways. Mount Olive College has adopted as its hallmark a dedication to seeking innovative ways to achieve educational ends not possible through the ordinary. The president must set the stride and lead the charge to make this so. A terminal degree in one of the disciplines of the College is desirable; a record of outstanding leadership is essential, and a successful experience in higher education a strength.

The president shall be a person who gives unqualified evidence of his or her Christian faith and commitment to the mission of the College as stated in its Charter and as interpreted by the Board of Trustees. In addition, he or she shall possess and maintain those academic, professional, personal, and moral qualities necessary for the presidency of an institution of Christian higher education.

Specified Duties of the President: The president shall be directly and ultimately responsible to the Board for the overall direction, management and control of the College, its policies, its officers, its faculty and students. He or she shall have the privilege of the floor at all meetings of the Board and of any committee except when an executive session is called. The Board of Trustees has assigned to the president, under policies established by the Board, responsibility for assuring that the following duties are satisfactorily performed:

(a) The administration of policies governing the academic, religious, moral and social life of the Corporation;
(b) The administration of the business and fiscal affairs of the College;
(c) The preparation, presentation and administration of annual budgets;
(d) In conjunction with the Board, planning and carrying out programs to insure sufficient funds for the operation of the College;
(e) Providing and maintaining a program of public relations to keep the constituencies of the College properly informed on its programs and activities;
(f) The assignment for use of College property;
(g) The selection and supervision of personnel capable of implementing effectively the affairs of the College;
(h) Subject to Board or designated standing committee approval, the selection and appointment of major administrative officers who report directly to the president and the employment of all persons with faculty rank; and
(i) All other duties as shall be necessary for the sound, educational, spiritual and business administration of the College.

Interested individuals should contact:
Performa Higher Education
Joanne Soliday
Executive Vice President
3007 South Church Street
Burlington, NC 27215

Or email jsoliday@PerformaHE.com

BENSON JOINS MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Dr. Tommy Benson of Duplin County has joined Mount Olive College as chairman of the Department of Education. "As the first chair of this department at Mount Olive College," he explained, "my hope is to bring to the education program a wealth of experience in the public schools of North Carolina."

Dr. Benson received a bachelor of arts in education from UNC-Chapel Hill, a master of arts in education from East Carolina University, and a doctor of education degree from Nova Southeastern University. He was employed as a teacher in Edgecombe and Duplin counties, where he worked with all ages. Dr. Tommy Benson's career history also includes being a principal, director of programs for exceptional children, assistant superintendent, and superintendent.

The decision to join the MOC team was an easy one for Dr. Benson. "I have been a lifelong member of Pearsall Chapel Free Will Baptist Church and an avid supporter of Mount Olive College," he stated. "Additionally, I have served as a Trustee of the College and have served as the chairman of the Duplin County Church Dinner Program in support of the College for several years."

Dr. Benson and his wife, Shirley, reside in Hampstead, NC. She is a retired teacher and they have three daughters. Alicia B. Ryan is an attorney in San Jose, California; Beth B. Trujillo is a teacher at North Duplin Elementary School; and Katrina B. Kremer is a teacher at the James Kenan School of Engineering.

As associate professor of Education at MOC, Dr. Benson has high hopes for the future. "I want to continue the development of the programs in this department in a way that will benefit North Carolina and our surrounding counties by producing teachers that are of extremely high quality."

Dorothy Whitley, dean of the School of Professional Studies, which includes the Department of Education, said, "Dr. Benson has the experience, knowledge, skills, and disposition to develop at Mount Olive College a unique teacher education program in keeping with the college history of transforming education and thereby transforming lives. We are fortunate to have a person of his personal and professional quality directing this effort."

COUNTYWIDE PRIDE

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE TROJANS DID THEIR COUNTY, SCHOOL PROUD

(The above article was an editorial written by Renee Carey in the Goldsboro News-Argus *following the Trojan baseball team's victory in the College World Series championship tournament in May.)*

Standing up and holding a College World Series championship trophy above your heads is a moment to be cherished forever.

But knowing that you got that trophy by months of working hard, playing fair, and acting like gentlemen on and off the field...well, that really is priceless.

The Mount Olive College Trojans might think that their community is most proud of the fact that they are obviously very, very good baseball players.

They might even think that just having a trophy for a display case is what will prompt crowds to turn out tonight for the campus-wide celebration of their victory.

But those aren't the only reasons it has been so easy to cheer for this team this year.

In these days of big egos, unacceptable behavior and embarrassing moments for many college teams across the country, this year's Division II champions have behaved with class and maturity.

Sure, their advisers and maybe even their coach might tell you they have had their bobbles along the way. All young people have their days when they make decisions they might reconsider later. But this team understood that its members were representing not only their school and fellow students, but legions of alumni, fans and a community as well.

And they lived up to the task with style and character.

So, tonight when the cheers roll across the Mount Olive College campus, the Trojans should be proud not only of the trophy they brought home, but of the example they set for any youngster who might have thought about picking up a baseball.

Both are major achievements worth celebrating.

HONORING OUR PARENTS

Sunday, June 8, 2008 was a wonderful day for the Sidney Free Will Baptist Church and for the Dallas and Verena Paul family. Over the past several months Gregg Paul, class of 1974 and Dianne Riley talked about his mother and a way to honor her for what she has meant to this church, to her family, and to Mount Olive College. We also wanted to include his dad. He communicated with his siblings and with his leadership they decided to do something that would be lasting; something that would keep on assisting future students to have the opportunities for a quality Christian Education; something that will last longer than any of us. The following is from the endowment presentation made by Dianne B. Riley, '67, Director of Alumni Relations at the College.

Pictured with Mrs. Paul are Dianne Riley; son, Dee; daughters, Cindy P. Slade '73 and Evelyn P. Williams; and sons, Gregg and Morris Ray. Son, Jim, was unable to attend.

The couple that will be honored today is loved by their 6 children. However, I'm going to talk more about the special lady in this couple. She gave her family a loving, caring home—a home in which compassion was balanced with fairness and firmness; a home where friends and family were welcomed and treated royally. Something I learned firsthand. She never seemed to mind the noise and the mess after all the basketball and football games or Fourth of July celebrations—crowds were the norm. She loves people and has been a taxi service for her community—called the roadrunner, I understand, a one lady meals on wheels, a visitor to sick and shut-ins, and a sharer of whatever she had. For over 56 years she has served this church in many areas along with her denomination. I have enjoyed seeing her at many WA and denominational conventions and meetings. Though quiet and unassuming, her leadership abilities remain unquestioned.

Yes, I found much of this information in an essay for the Woman of the Year in the Washington Daily News *1992, but more than that I've had the pleasure of knowing this lady and some of her children firsthand. I've seen that they learned commitment, how to treat others; not to be selfish but doing for others from their parents and from this church family. I've seen the support that these children give their children; the trust, the encouragement, the positive outlook; and, yes, the understanding of a sound education being the key to future success. I've also seen people of character.*

You all know who I am referring to: yes, Mrs. Verena Paul has supported the endeavors of Mount Olive College for longer than I can remember. She has been an active supporter/encourager who helped Mount Olive to develop to where it is today and 50 years ago not even Mrs. Verena would have envisioned that you would have MOC right here in Beaufort County. She had a strong part in this. She never gave up and there were lean times. She is an example for all.

Because of our desire to honor our parents, we (their children) hereby establish the ***William Dallas and Verena M. Paul Endowed Scholarship*** *for the purpose of assisting worthy students at Mount Olive College. The purpose is to to provide educational opportunities for worthy students; to assist students who have a deep desire and commitment to business or religious studies; and to provide enriched and expanded learning experiences relating to citizenship development, career preparation, and services to the College, the church, and humanity.*

Recipients must demonstrate evidence of good character, a commitment to attaining an education, an attitude of perseverance, a love for people and be committed to a degree in business or religious studies. First preference will be for descendants of William Dallas and Verena M. Paul, next preference will be those recommended by the pastor of Sidney Free Will Baptist Church and/or a resident of Beaufort County and next preference would be residents of Virginia or North Carolina. Each recipient must meet all admission requirements to enter Mount Olive College and must maintain a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) while attending Mount Olive College.

Congratulations, Mrs. Verena, and thank you Gregg for the vision for this endowment that will not only honor your parents but make a difference in the lives of students in the future who would like to come to Mount Olive College. Thank you "children" for your support; it takes all of us working together to make something of this magnitude happen. This is an example of what was learned in this home over the years: unselfishness, caring about others, and the importance of a good education. Endowments are investing in something that live on past our lifetime. It is a way of still giving after we are no longer here. That is what you are all doing. God Bless You!

JOYOUS MOMENTS

by Dianne B. Riley and Jean F. Ackiss

They are here...the aroma of southern fried chicken fills the air... the rain misted, the clouds were very low, it was a rainy day in southern Wayne County. However, radiance filled the President's Room in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center at Mount Olive College on Wednesday, May 28, 2008 when Earl and Marie Glenn stepped into the room to be surprised by a small group of friends lifting their voices wishing them a Happy Anniversary.

Yes, it was the date of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn's 60th wedding anniversary, and several of their friends thought something special should happen on that day. (The family plans to celebrate their anniversary in July when they will be together for a grandson's wedding.) Pictures were made, lunch was served, and the invocation was given by the Rev. Walter Reynolds, who was best man in their wedding and had been their chaperone during courtship. After lunch their anniversary cake was shared...it was just one of those Kodak moments. Many cards, tributes, and memorable times were shared by all, including a few tears and much laughter.

Johnny Sullivan shared the benediction as hands joined to form a special circle of friends. Warmth and love abounded greatly in the room. All who attended came away blessed by the time spent together, yet filled to overflowing with remembrance of the influence this couple not only had on our lives, but the lives in so many churches, as well as the influence this couple had on the development and growth of Mount Olive College. The Rev. Earl Glenn is the only surviving member of the original Board of Trustees of Mount Olive College which was elected in 1953. In January of 2007 friends of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn honored them by establishing the Earl H. and Marie G. Glenn Endowed Scholarship Fund at Mount Olive College to which gifts can be made at any time honoring the Glenns.

"Thank you, Lord, for giving Earl and Marie to us. They have touched our lives in so many ways, and we are better because of them."

SPRING BRANCH VISITS MOC

by Ruby Ellis

On Wednesday, June 11, twelveth Super Seniors from Spring Branch Church, Greene County left the church at 10:30 A.M. for a trip to Mount Olive College which was a most enjoyable and informative day.

We arrived at the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center right on time to be met by Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support, and her assistant, Darlene Mathias. We were also surprisingly met by Frank Harrison who has ties to Spring Branch and is retired from the College. We were escorted by Jean, Frank, and Darlene into the dining hall for lunch. This in itself was a treat where we had a delicious meal, welcome by Jean, and a student, Tabatha Kennedy, who gave her thoughts from a student's viewpoint. Jean gave us many points of information on the growth of the College and the people it serves. Before leaving the cafeteria for a tour of the campus, Jean presented each one with a "Goodie Bag" prepared especially for us. Some of our group made sure the lettering on the bag "MOC ALUMNI" was visible!

On touring the campus, we not only were able to see the grounds and the layout of the buildings, but we were given tours of various buildings such as the W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper Hall which also houses the Southern Bank Auditorium, the Communications Building and the Pope Wellness Center. Many classrooms were opened up to us and we were fortunate to have a science professor, Dr. Mickael Cariveau, explain some of the science projects they were conducting. We especially appreciated seeing the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection Room.

Along with the many other things she introduced us to and showing her enthusiasm for the future of the College, we felt as if we truly have a facility in the Free Will Baptist denomination to be very proud of. From the meager beginning of the College, over fifty years ago until this time, this institution has touched many thousands of lives and continues to hold to the small college atmosphere in relating to the student body.

We are grateful for our pastor, Doug Skinner, who drove the van for us and helped us have a wonderful day.

I encourage anyone who has the opportunity to visit the College. You can plan a tour through Jean Ackiss and have lunch in the dining hall for only $5, including drink and dessert.

FWB QUILT GIVEN TO FWB HISTORICAL COLLECTION

Pictured are J. Arthur Evans of Texas and Kay E. Griffin of Virginia presenting a quilt to Gary Barefoot, curator of the FWB Historical Collection at Mount Olive College. The quilt was made in the mid to late 1930s by ladies from Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church. It was given to the late Reverend and Mrs. James A. Evans while he was pastor of the church. Mr. Evans, a retired attorney, and Ms. Griffin, a retired educator and an alumna of Mount Olive College class of 1959, are children of Mr. and Mrs. Evans.

The quilt has the names of all the membership of Union Grove Church at the time it was made.

"Memorabilia with such provenance as this quilt definitely enriches the denominational history," stated Gary Barefoot, curator of the FWB Historical Collection.

The Free Will Baptist Historical Collection is a repository of over 12,000 items of denominational history. The collection is open to the public for research. Donations of historical significance are always welcomed. For more information, contact Gary Barefoot at (919) 658-2502.

BASKETBALL CAMP GOOD INFLUENCE

The following is a brief letter sent to Coach Bill Clingan who sponsors a basketball camp each summer at Mount Olive College.

Hello Coach Clingan,

My name is Pam and I am the parent of Christian. I would like to tell you thank you so much for holding this camp. Christian thoroughly enjoyed himself. This was his first basketball camp and he was a little nervous about what would be going on. But, when I picked him up Monday evening, he was already talking about coming back on Tuesday.

I was very impressed that your staff seemed to genuinely care about the kids, and wanted them to take something away from the camp. Every one of the coaches seemed to thoroughly enjoy what they were doing. I think Christian learned a lot and we were both tickled about his awards.

Again, thank you for your work with the children. I would recommend this camp to anyone.

Pam

COMING EVENTS

August 14
12:00 P.M.
Lunch & Learn Series: What's a Rain Garden?
Hennessee Room
Lois K. Murphy Regional Center

August 26
Summer Graduation
George and Annie Dail Kornegay Arena
Admission by ticket only

LUNCHEON HIGHLIGHTS DISASTER RELIEF GROUPS

by Jon Dawson, Kinston Free Press *Staff Writer*
Reprinted with permission.

The Harvest Connection is a disaster relief ministry set up by a group of pastors and volunteers from the Original Free Will Baptist denomination. The program was started five years ago to provide help to small communities dealing with the aftermath of a natural disaster.

On Wednesday, Harvest hosted a luncheon titled "Community in Crisis" at its 2600 W. Vernon Ave. headquarters. According to Harvest executive director David Hansley, the goal of the organization is to help rural communities in eastern North Carolina build resilience to disaster at a grass roots level.

The luncheon featured speakers such as Lt. Col. Pascual Goichechea of the office of Civil Affairs at Fort Bragg. Goichechea has Master Certification in Disaster Response with the military.

"I was part of an 11-man team that was stationed in Floridia during Hurricane Andrew," Goichechea said. "The lack of preparation that I saw in that community sparked my interest in this program."

The program also featured representatives from the state Department of Agriculture, Community in Crisis, state Emergency Management, Lenoir County Red Cross and the state Mental Health Disaster Planning.

Harvest volunteer Blance' Jones says her involvement with the charity has been very rewarding.

"We went to Mississippi on three separate occasions to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina," Jones said. "We did everything from help elderly people clean up their yards to building temporary baths and showers in a donated building."

Christopher Dyer, president of Community in Crisis gave the crowd an overview of the group's goals.

"What we want to do is help the government," Dyer said. "The government can't do everything for us. We want to help vulnerable communities be able to look out for themselves for a few days until government assistance can reach them."

COASTAL MACEA

New Bern Church of God
New Bern, NC
August 8–9, 2008

Contact Mary Dudley at (252) 746-4963 for more information

Workshops and Leaders

The Reverend H. C. Hardesty
Constructing a Church From Scratch

Mr. Glenn Massengill
Fishing With Lures
Aggromatoi Idiotai: "I can be one, too!"
Church Kids Do Drugs, Too

The Reverend Ron Richardson
Object Lessons and Bible Games for Children
How to Talk to Children About God

Mr. Jerry Goff
Promoting the Church Through Print

Dr. Roosevelt Baxter
Ministry to Youth
The Power of Prayer
Men in Ministry

The Reverend David C. Hansley and Others
Building Women of Integrity Through Service
Helping Your Children Manage Their Fear—Emergency Preparedness

Mr. Eric Barger
The Truth About Islam
The Most Dangerous Cult
Defeating Darkness Seven Ways—Victory in Spiritual Warfare
Harry Potter, Pokemon, Hollywood, and the End-time Occult Invasion
The Errors of the Emergent Church
How I Came "From Rock to Rock"—Eric Barger's Story

The Reverend Ron Hunter
Play-Doh People
Building a D6 Church
Effective Lesson Starters
Toy Soldiers
Finding Teachers Is a Game of Hide and Seek

Dr. Eddie Moody

Equipping the Congregation to Provide Emotional First-Aid
Helping People Overcome Grief and Loss
Helping People Break the Addiction Cycle
When Getting Down Gets Dangerous

Dr. Matt Pinson

Brief Introduction to the Book of Timothy
Table Top Conversation Concerning Christian Education Concerns

Dr. John McMurphy

Getting Ready for Sunday
11 Friends That Will Transform Your Ministry
Sunday School on Purpose
Transforming Preschoolers
11 Things You Gotta Know About Preteens

Mr. Jim Hogsett

Living a Purpose Driven Life in the Workplace
Money in the Hands of a Christian Worker
How to Deal With Difficult People at Work
Coping With Monsters in the Workplace
The Plain Truth About Business Ethics

Ms. Cathy Crumpler

Creating Lessons From Objects
The Joy of Puppetry

Ms. Sarah Crumpler

Teaching With Balloon Sculpture, Face Painting, etc.

The Reverend David Satterfield

Education That Is Christian
Recruiting Volunteers
From Bible Text to Lesson Plan
Classroom Management
How Adults Learn

The Reverend Wes Bartel

Becoming Creative as a Christian Teacher
Portrait of a Bible Teacher
Making the Sunday School Class a Small Group
What the Bible Teaches About Gifts and Callings
A Biblical Philosophy for the Teaching Ministry of Your Church

Mr. Larry Jaffrey

Understanding Jewish Customs to More Effectively Teach
Understanding How God Wired Your Students
How to Make a Church Committee Become an Effective Ministry Team
Jerusalem—30 A.D.
A Crash Course on Jesus in the Old Testament

The Reverend Paul Learned

Teaching Today's Preteens
Bible Study for the Starbucks Crowd
Building Bible Literacy Among Adults
What to Teach in Your Small Group Class

North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries

Footprints

Footprints convey that someone has gone before us. Leaving a marked way;
And remind us that we also can leave a markd way For those who come after us.

MODEL FOR A FAMILY ENDOWMENT

In December 2005, Mrs. Mae Silverthorne Nunnally initiated an endowment with the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries in memory of her parents and invited members of her family to share in the memorial.

One of ten children of the late William Washington Silverthorne, Jr. (1896–1972) and his wife Bertha Paul Silverthorne (1904–1997), she wanted members of her family to transmit to future generations the heritage of Christian faith they had received from their parents and Bethel Original Free Will Baptist Church in Pamlico County, NC. It was a heritage that went back to her grandfather, William Washington Silverthorne, Sr. (1848–1927), who was a charter member of Bethel Church and who served as a deacon for thirty-nine years. Records indicate that the church was organized in 1873.

Another note of historical significance is that Mrs. Nunnally's father attended the Free Will Baptist Seminary in Ayden, a predecessor institution to Mount Olive College. The Seminary catalog for 1917–1918 contains a picture of the baseball team, of which Mr. Silverthorne was a member. An ordained minister, Mr. Silverthorne was a life-long advocate for Christian higher education.

Although Mrs. Nunnally lived in Richmond, VA during the last fifty-three years of her life, until her death in 2007, the roots of her Christian heritage were a mainstream in her life. And thus it was that when she decided upon an endowment as a living legacy for her family, she identified ministries that were related to her spiritual heritage.

- Bethel Original Free Will Baptist Church at Whortonsville, NC;
- Camp Vandemere at Vandemere, NC, where the Silverthorne family holds its annual weekend reunion each June;
- The Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Middlesex, NC, a ministry of Christian compassion long dear to the heart of the Silverthorne family; and
- The Free Will Baptist Historical Collection at Mount Olive College—a depository of information on the history and faith in which the Silverthorne family was nurtured.

THE SILVERTHORNE FAMILY ENDOWMENT

The Silverthorne Endowment is a permanent fund, which will not be spent but invested. Each year a distribution of income will be made in equal amounts to four named beneficiaries:

HOW THE ENDOWMENT IS FUNDED

Beginning with a lead gift by Mrs. Nunnally and an invitation from her to the larger Silverthorne family, contributions from forty-seven donors through June 30 have totaled $40,041.23. These donors include not only members of the family, but a large number of friends who made gifts in memory of Mrs. Nunnally, who died in August 2007.

THE LASTING VALUE OF AN ENDOWMENT

For most church members, when their heart stops, their support of their church and its work stops. It does not have to be that way. Through a program of professionally managed endowed funds, the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries provides a means whereby our works can continue beyond our lifetime.

For more information about endowments, interested persons are invited to contact:

W. Burkette Raper, President
N.C. Foundation For Christian Ministries
619 West Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365
Telephone (919) 658-3855 or (919) 658-7839
Fax (919) 635-3777
Email: wraper@moc.edu

The Life Membership Award program began by the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary in the 1950s and since then, there have been many women honored on the state, district, and local levels. It is to honor outstanding members who exemplify the following traits according to our *Manual of Methods of the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary*: She must be an active OFWB member and active member of the Woman's Auxiliary, one who has given of herself and her talents untiringly to the cause of Christ through the Woman's Auxiliary and the OFWB church, who understands and appreciates the work of the Woman's Auxiliary at all levels, and a woman who has inspired others to greater Christian service. Such is the woman we come to honor today with a Life Membership Award. She began attending Auxiliary meetings in the early 60s and has been faithful in attendance. She often presented programs at regular meetings and Pre-Easter, Pre-Thanksgiving, and Pre-Christmas services, had prayer and many, many times made cakes for MOC dinners and whatever need arose when a cake was needed. She has been active in her church in the following ways: teaching the nursery class and the primary boys class in Sunday School, singing in the choir, attending and teaching Vacation Bible School, active in the Auxiliary and on the church benevolent committee. She is faithful in sending cards, visiting the sick and shut-ins, helping decorate at Christmas, refreshments at meetings, and always bringing delicious food to our covered dish meals.

She is small in stature, but she definitely is not small in her character, attitude, faithfulness, and dedication. She is a ball of dynamite and is a feisty and spunky lady. She is always very friendly and makes sure to speak to everyone with whom she comes in contact. She is always neatly dressed in very pretty outfits. She is very observant of what others have on and often comments on their outfits.

She worked part-time keeping books at her Dad's business. He also built an antique shop beside their house and she helped in keeping books and writing checks for him.

She is a former member of Jarvis Memorial Church and transferred her membership to First FWB Church of Greenville on May 8, 1952.

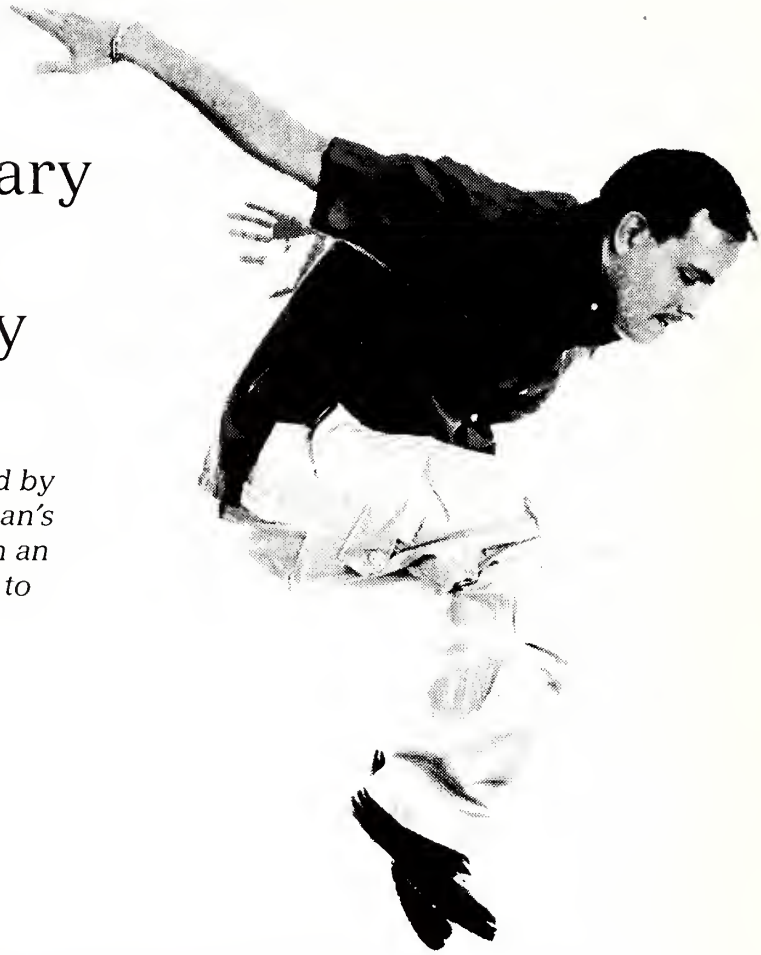
Nell Merritt Walters was born in Clinton in Sampson County on July 17, 1919, to Zulema and Veteran Allen Merritt and was the baby of 5 children, having 2 brothers and 2 sisters. She graduated from Greenville High School in 1938. She and Stephen F. Walters, Sr. were married on December 7, 1941. He was in the National Guard for 1 year and 1 month and then was drafted and was in the Sea Bees in the Navy; he was sent overseas and then stationed in California. She lived with her mother and dad while Steve was in the service. Their daughter, Alice, was born in 1942 and was 6 weeks old when Steve left home. He did not see her again until she was 2 years old. They were blessed with another daughter, Louise, in 1946 and a son, Stevie, in 1949. They moved to 2615 Sunset Avenue and have lived there for 60 years.

Alice Mumford is married to Jerry S. McDaniel and they live in Durham. Louise is married to Robert A. Sammons, Jr.; they live in Grand Junction, Colorado and Stevie is married to Frances Carroll and they live in Greenville. Her six grandchildren and their spouses are: Michael Stephen Mumford and wife Courtney, Susan M. Stahl and husband John, J. Merritt Sammons, Katie E. Sammons, Erica C. Walters and husband Will Brinson, and Lisa E. Walters. There are six great-grandchildren: Stephen, Sarah and Stanford Stahl, Caroline and Michael Mumford, and Jackson Brinson.

She faithfully supported Steve while he was Sunday School superintendent for at least 28 years. In their early years, she looked after their children in church so Steve could sing in the choir. They enjoyed traveling and many times their companions were other couples in the church. Her favorite place in her travels is the mountains. She also enjoys spending time at the beach with Stevie and Frances.

She is an independent lady, deciding late in life that she wanted to learn to drive. She took lessons at Pitt Tech and received her driver's license at the age of 50. She is a very humble lady, feeling that what she does is not important. However, this life Award has certainly been earned by this lovely lady and we present it to you, Nell, with great pleasure.

Woman's Auxiliary Taskforce on Youth Ministry



This taskforce has been appointed by the State Convention of the Woman's Auxiliary Executive Committee in an effort to aspire greater ministry to all children and youth.

CONNECTING, EDUCATING, & TRANSFORMING LIVES FOR JESUS CHRIST

The Woman's Auxiliary Taskforce on Youth Ministry invites you to join them for the 1st Annual Youth Leader's Summit to be held on **Saturday, September 13, 2008 from 1 P.M. until 6 P.M.** The Summit will be held on the campus of Mount Olive College. Please complete the registration form on the next page and submit along with registration fee as soon as possible to Victor Jones, 264 Kirby Thigpen Road, Pink Hill, NC 28572.

YOUTH LEADER'S SUMMIT
SPONSORED BY THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY
TASKFORCE ON YOUTH MINISTRY

Registration Form

A variety of workshops will be available to choose during three Workshop Sessions during the afternoon:

- Plugged in Teen Teaching, Ministering/Teaching Pre-Teens: Mr. Paul Learned/Standard Publishing
- Youth Ministry Administration & Outreach: Mrs. Angela Mattox, St. Mary's OFWB Church, New Bern
- Media In Youth Ministry: Mr. David Currie, Marsh Swamp OFWB Church, Sims
- Events and Resources for Youth Ministry: The Reverend John R. Harris, Westside OFWB Church, Kinston
- Volunteers and Fundraising in Youth Ministry: How?: The Reverend Bryant Hines, Rose of Sharon OFWB Church, Robersonville

A meal will be provided at the end of the day's sessions and closing service—6 P.M.

2008 Youth Convention T-shirts are available for purchase at the summit. Please pre-order and pre-pay for them on the designated area of this registration. Youth to Adult XL are $10 and Adult XXL/XXXL are $12.
The theme for this year's t-shirt is "Reflecting Him" based on Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."

Youth Leader's Summit at Mount Olive College on Saturday, September 13, 2008.

Registration at 1 P.M. with opening session beginning at 1:30 P.M. in Raper Hall Auditorium.
Three 50 minute workshops will follow with a closing session and meal at 6 P.M.

Church Name _____

Church Pastor _____ (attends free)

Youth Leaders/Youth Pastors/Others
(received by August 30)..... ____@ $8 = _____

Youth Leaders/Youth Pastors/Others
(received after August 30)..... ____@ $10 = _____

2008 Youth Convention T-shirts..... ____@ $10 = _____ (Youth to Adult XL)
____@ $12 = _____ (Adult XXL/XXXL)

Please list number and size of T-shirts wanted below:

Please list names of all people planning to attend summit notated above:

Please send this registration form, along with registration fee and any money for T-shirt orders to:
Victor Jones, 264 Kirby Thigpen Road, Pink Hill, NC 28572

NEW SANDY HILL NEWS

Throughout the year we have held events and contests to promote fellowship and increase our Sunday School participation. Early in the year we released prayer balloons, we held a "Chili cook-off" contest, and later on had old-fashion night at the church. Attendance might not have increased all that much, but the Christian fellowship was definitely worth sharing.

We look forward to our next event, which will be joint adult Sunday School classes taught by our pastor, the Rev. Paul Nicholson.

POWHATAN NEWS

Powhatan OFWB Church in Clayton is busy this summer. The church sent a group of about 20 to the Youth Convention in May where games were being played that led to the national championship for the MOC baseball team! Several members (the Rev. Jim Bogle, Dan Harden, Chris Bagley, and Rita Jones) attended the annual Convention the following week.

Special prayer is requested for the family of Hollie Jones Cummings. She gave birth to triplets but only two were strong enough to be transferred to WakeMed. Tiny Angel Cummings did not survive, but the twins continue to grow and improve. Please pray for God to give comfort and continued healing to this family.

June began with the annual Jones Family dinner and our oldest member Inez Jones West, turning 92. Powhatan hosted the District VI annual meeting of the Daughters of the American Revolution on June 12. Members Connie Barton and Rita Jones are officers in the Rand's Mill Chapter of the D.A.R.

SMITH'S NEW HOME NEWS

Mrs. Lizzie Tyndall, a faithful member of Smith's New Home Church, celebrated her 90th birthday in May of this year with her family and friends. With her is Susan Tyndall, her daughter-in-law, and Clarissa Tyndall, her great grand daughter.

COUNTING THE COST

by Donald Fader

Financial Planning: A Biblical Perspective

Whoever thought that you would see gas prices over $4.00 per gallon? I have to admit that I didn't see that one coming. Unfortunately, reality happens and it serves as a reminder of how little we control our financial destiny. However, it does stress the importance of paying attention to even the small details of our own financial plan.

If you ask what financial plan then you have just joined the millions of Americans who live day-to-day, paycheck to paycheck. These are not bad people; they are just not expecting change. If you, like so many, are living paycheck to paycheck you are making several dangerous assumptions. One, that prices will not go up. Two, that you will remain in good health and not have to miss work. Three, that you will live to retirement. Four, your employer will continue to provide you with a job. Five, that you will not experience a catastrophic emergency that requires a lot of money. There are other assumptions, but I think you get the picture.

Now let me ask you a question. How many of these assumptions do you have 100% control over? Let me save you the time of looking back at your assumptions. The answer is zero. These are dangerous assumptions because each of them is out of your hands. Yet people make decisions every day that affect the well-being of their family as if they control the events that are taking place around them.

This is why it is so critical that we take responsibility for the factors that we have control over. For example, the paycheck that you receive represents a week, two weeks or a month of valuable time. You have exchanged that time for a wage or salary and as you look at that check you need to remember that it represents a portion of your life that you will never get back. Once it is gone you can't get it back. Remember that regardless of how many dollars it represents, you get one chance to spend, save or invest it. Be smart, do it right!

Quick test. You drive a car that gets 20 miles to the gallon. Most stations are selling gas for $4.00 per gallon but your friend tells you about one out on the highway that has fuel for $3.79 a gallon. It is 10 miles one way, but, hey, it's 21 cents a gallon cheaper! Would you drive out there to buy 15 gallons for the savings? Most people will say sure, but think about it. You will pay $56.85 for 15 gallons instead of $60.00 at the local station, a savings of $3.15. But will burn 1 gallon of the $3.79 gas to get there and back. You just spent 64 cents extra, wasted 30 minutes, and put 20 miles of wear and tear on your car. It's the little things that add up to the big things. It takes pennies to make dollars.

As you watch the television news you begin to see a dismal picture of our economy emerging. The economists are predicating higher unemployment, higher prices, and rising interest rates. Frankly, I don't put a lot of stock in what the economists say. As a matter of fact, I think that God created economists to make weather forecasters look good. But this doesn't change the fact that in tough times we need to be extra careful about how we spend our money.

I was having a conversation with a friend about the economy and its effect on church giving and how many of our members are on fixed incomes. Of course I was thinking about the retiree who said that unless you are self-employed or on commission almost everyone was on a fixed income. You know, he has a point and if we started planning like most retirees do we would all be a lot better off.

As we face these tough times we should remind ourselves what Jesus said in Luke 14:28 "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and **counteth the cost**, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" (emphasis added).

What does He mean when He says, count the cost? He means that we need to plan more effectively. If you don't have a budget then you need to sit down and review where the money goes each month. You will be shocked at how much money you waste each month, and by waste I mean that you have no idea where it went. Once you have determined where the money is going then it is time to plug the leaks and cut your expenditures. Then you need to set up a budget that you and your spouse can agree to. Set up reserves and savings for emergencies and remember that even though you can't control what happens around you, you can control your response to these situations.

Count the cost and make certain you can finish.

The Bible speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. Psalm 119:121–122 says "I have done justice and righteousness, do not leave me to my oppressors, be surety for your servant for good. Do not let the proud oppress me." The psalmist said that he had done what was just and right and he was trusting God to take care of his oppressors. The Bible teaches that vengeance belongs to God. He can do a better job than we can because He knows all the circumstances and motives. We will only make a mess of things. The next part of the verse gives me great joy. He says be surety for your servant. Surety is ones who stands for another, who represents us. Jesus was our surety at Calvary. He took our place and we can trust Him to protect us from all harm. The more the servant knows about his master, the more useful he can be. Are you a good servant? Do not let the stresses of the day steal your Psalm.

Psalms for the Soul

by Linda Herring

If you have any comments or prayer requests, you can contact me at <herring.theword@hotmail.com>.

HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHTS

Golden Oldies

(This article is a partial re-print from p. 6 of The Free Will Baptist, *Wednesday, March 18, 1953, Vol. 68–No. 11. The original article was entitled* Aspen Grove Completes Building.*)*

Aspen Grove FWB Church located in Wilson County, three miles west of Fountain, NC, has recently completed a new brick veneer building with a seating capacity of 300. Also the building has seven Sunday School rooms and a $1,600 heating system.

The church was organized in 1860, and some of its former pastors were: the Revs. W. R. Coats, M.E. Tyson, W. L. Hart, R. H. Jackson, and P. C. Wiggs. The present pastor [in 1953], the Rev. L. B. Manning, pastored the church from 1932 to 1941, returning as pastor in 1950. In 1951, a building program was started and the sanctuary was the result of this program.

Mr. Manning states that the church at present is free of debt, having completed the building program and paid for same within 18 months. Plans are underway to install new pews in the church auditorium this fall at the cost of approximately $2,500.

Beginning in the early fall, Aspen Grove will change from one-fourth time to one-half time with services each second and fourth Sunday morning and evening.

(This article is a partial re-print from the cover of The Free Will Baptist, *Wednesday, January 2, 1957, Vol. 72–No. 1.)*

The Bethany Free Will Baptist Church, Pitt County, was organized in the middle or late eighteen hundreds. When the church became established, it grew into a reputable church that took its place in the religious life of the community. Beginning with a one-room frame building, the Bethany Church, through the course of time, made progress and was rebuilt and improved to the fine church it is today.

The present brick structure was erected during the pastorate of the late Rev. R. F. Pittman. Two Sunday School rooms at the back of the auditorium were added during the pastorate of the Rev. J. C. Moye. In 1952, an educational building was started and then completed. It gave added facilities for teaching and recreation. This was accomplished while the Rev. J. T. Forrest was pastor of the church. While the Rev. N. D. Beaman was pastor, in 1953, the church went on a half-time basis.

Among the former pastors of this church are the following: the Revs. George Vause, M. A. Woodard, Philip Woodard, J. C. Griffin, R. F. Pittman, J. C. Moye, J. T. Forrest, N. D. Beaman, and Water Reynolds.

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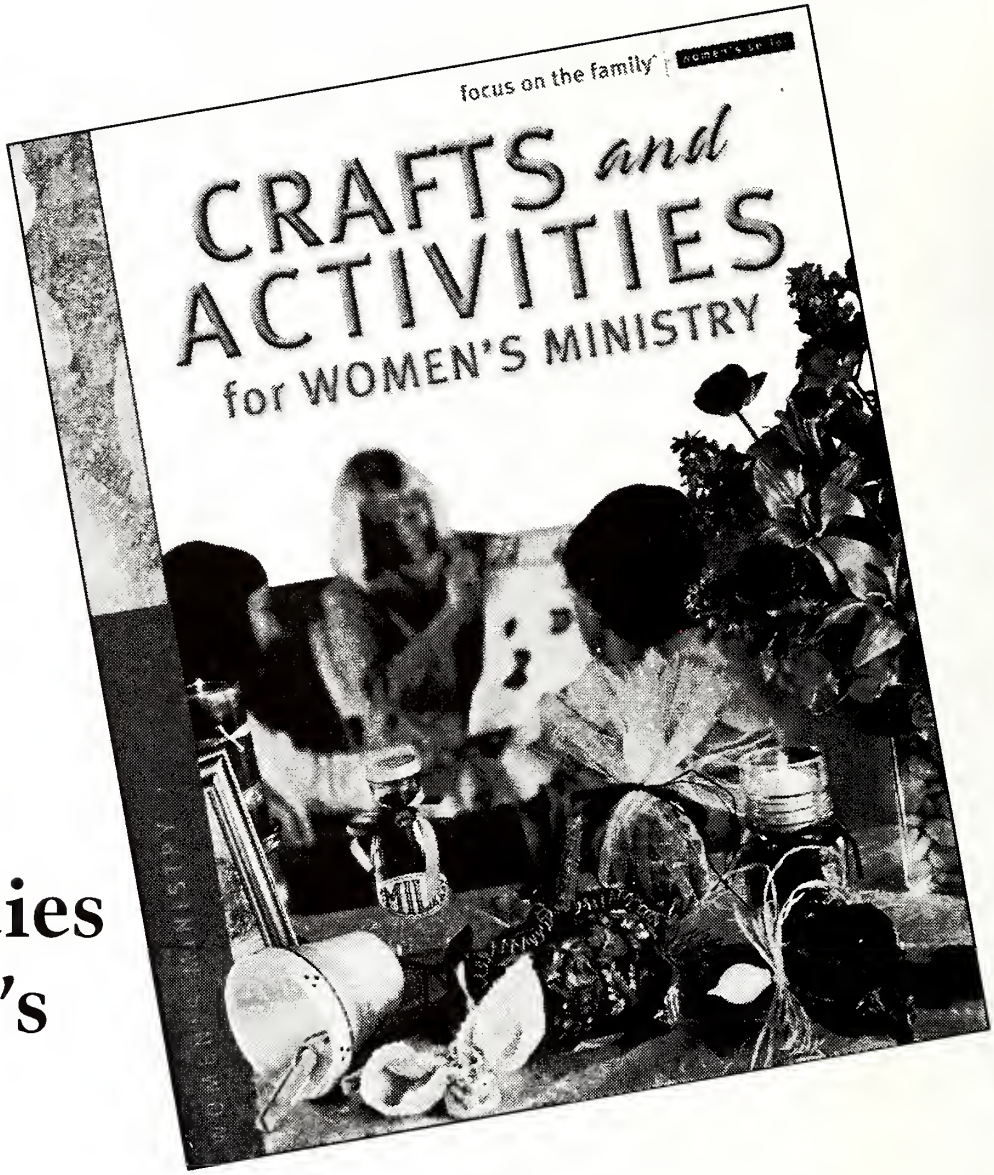

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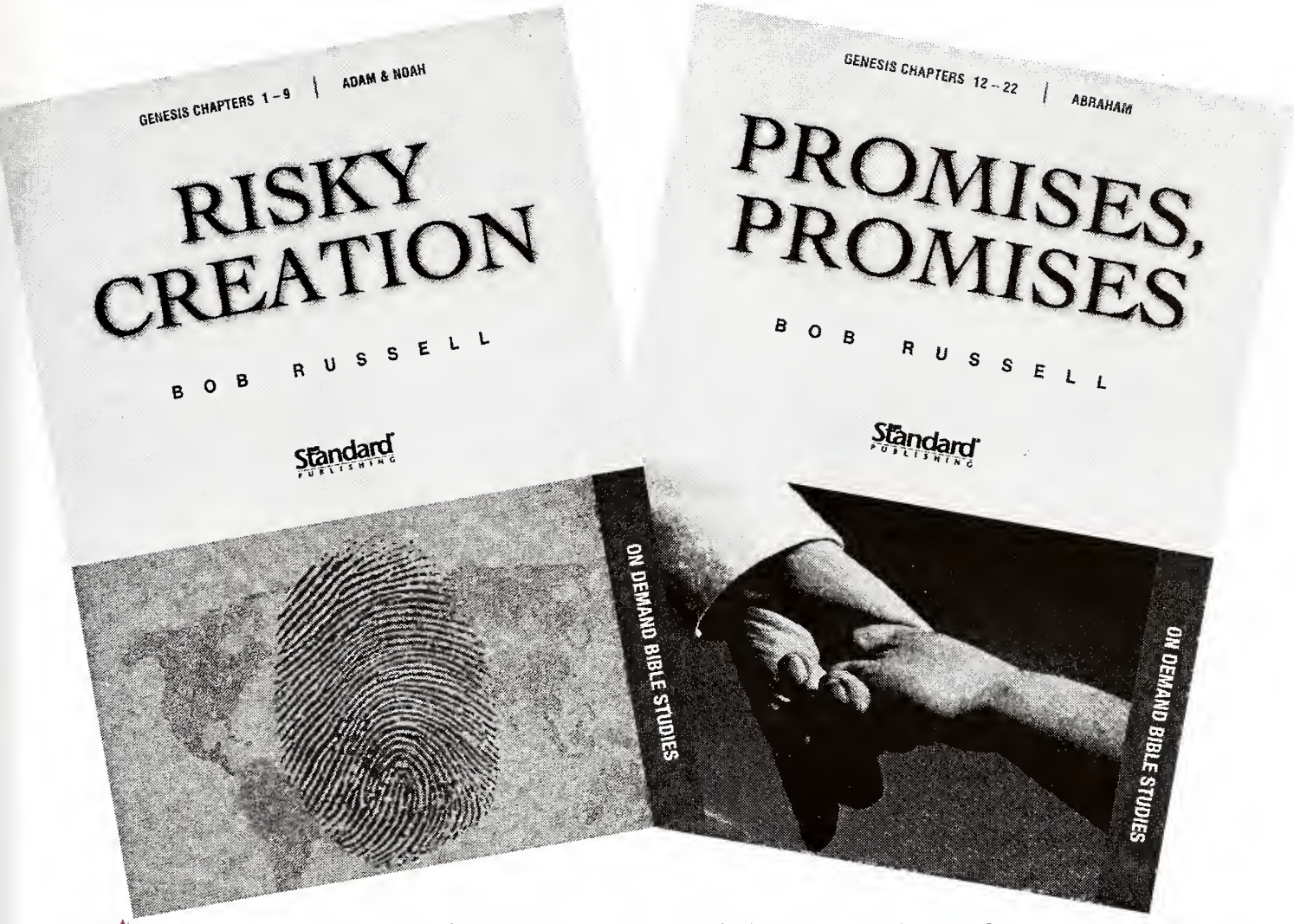

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—William Ross Wallace

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was written to express appreciation and respect to pastors that the author has known during 65 years as a member of the Free Will Baptist faith.

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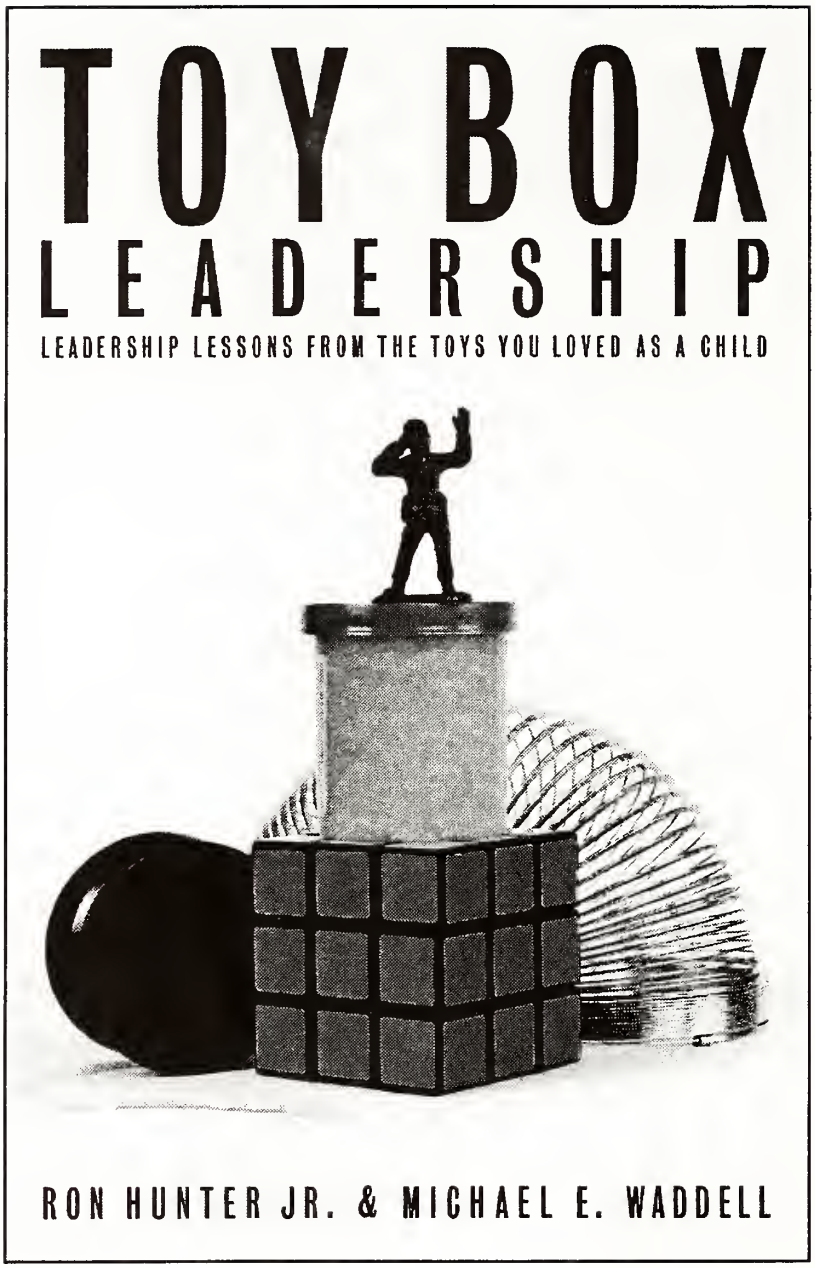

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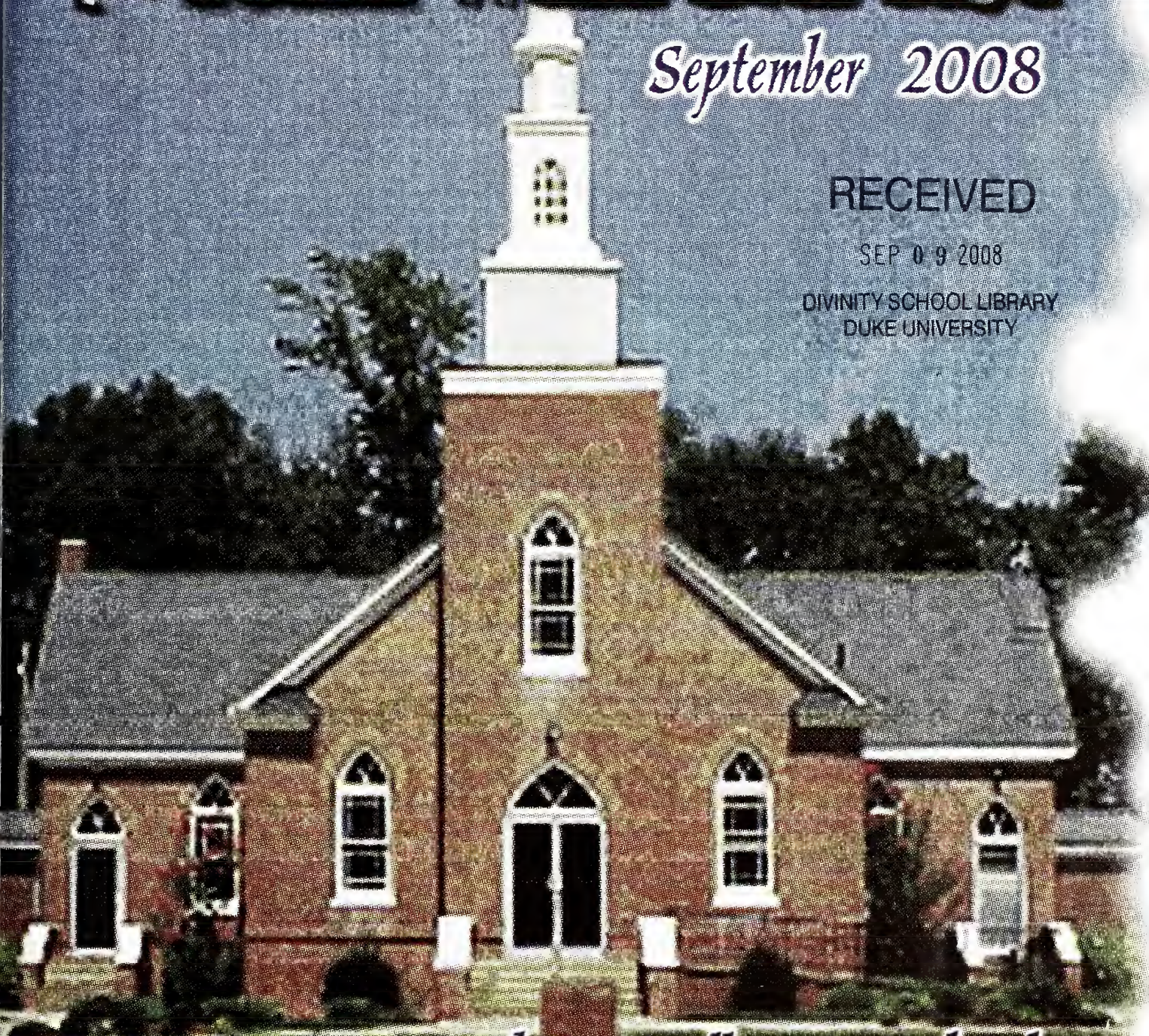

Gum Swamp Original Free Will Baptist Church

THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST

MONTHLY PLANNER

September 2008

DISASTER RELIEF MONTH

the harvest connection
DISASTER RELIEF MINISTRY

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 **LABOR DAY**	2	3	4	5 MOC Society Gala (Society Members Only), 6:30 P.M.	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Youth Leader's Summit @ MOC
14	15	16	17	18	19 Women's Mini Conference @ Cragmont (19–21)	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 MOC Symphonic Band Fall Concert, 6:30 P.M.				

NOTE:

Color(s) for the season: The basic color is green, which symbolizes growth in Christ. Red may be used on civic holidays.

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POWER VERSE

Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man (Proverbs 3:3–4).

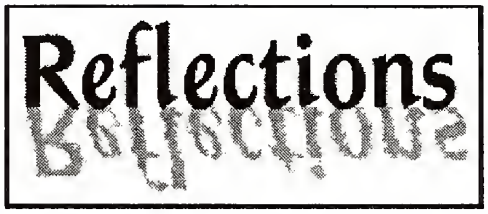
His Truths Are Permanent

by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer

(This column is re-printed from the Introduction of the Advanced Bible Student, Fall 2008 *by Neal Cox.)*

In Acts 2 we read about the development and the work of the new community in Christ. However, the story begins long before this and is a part of a web of sin dating back to just after the flood of Noah.

God reiterates the command of Genesis 1:22 for people to go forth, be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth in Genesis 9:1. People are obviously all of one language after the flood; they descended from Noah and his family. A group migrates from the east and upon finding a plain in Shinar, they decide to build for themselves a city and to make for themselves a name. We are always seeking to make our own name great when Scripture clearly teaches us that it is in obedience to God that He will make our name great (see Genesis 12:2).



God comes down to view the construction of the city and sees the cooperation of humanity. God states that something has to be done to stop people from establishing themselves in sin because there is such a spirit of cooperation that "...now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do" (Genesis 11:6). Therefore, at the tower called Babel, God confounds and confuses the language of humanity.

Fast forward several thousand years and Jesus Christ comes to re-create creation in the form and fashion in which it was supposed to be from the beginning. Jesus is born, lives an exemplary life, performs many miracles to prove Himself to be the Son of God as He claims, and then is arrested, beaten, crucified, and finally vindicated by His Father God in resurrection from the dead. He commands His disciples to tarry in Jerusalem awaiting divine power from Heaven which will enable them to accomplish their mission. The Greek word used for power here is "dunamis" from whence we get our English word dynamite! Therefore, the disciples enter into an upper room and begin a 10 day prayer meeting.

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GUM SWAMP OFWB CHURCH: 250 YEARS OF SERVICE

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

Two Hundred and fifty years ago a group of people gathered together and decided to form the Gum Swamp Church. This small group could have never imagined that the church they were starting would still be in existence some 250 years later. But yet, 250 years later the church still stands, on the same property that it was started on, still serving God. I cannot help but think about that verse in Matthew 16:18 *"...and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* Truly the Gum Swamp Church has faced 250 years of opposition but with the help of God is still standing.

Founded in the late 1750s by Joseph and William Parker, the congregation of Gum Swamp received a land grant from the Earl of Granville which was recorded when Pitt County was established in 1761. We know that the Gum Swamp Congregation existed in 1755 because it was one of the churches mentioned by Joseph Parker that he pulled into a mission church trying to save the General Baptist churches when the Calvinistic Baptists moved into North Carolina. We again see the Gum Swamp Church in 1961 mentioned in the courthouse of Pitt County registering their land. So we take as a beginning date of 1758 since we cannot pinpoint the exact time and date. Over the next 250 years the Gum Swamp Church fended off several other attempts from other denominations to take over the church and change their beliefs. But Gum Swamp stood and remained faithful to their faith.

There are three other churches in the Belvoir area that have their roots in Gum Swamp Church. Holly Hill FWB was established in the late 1800s after the Civil War. Members of the Gum Swamp Church got together and purchased land and helped to build the first building for the released slaves in the area. In the 1960s another church was born out of Gum Swamp Church. The Belvoir FWB Church came into being after the big split of the 1960s. Lighthouse Baptist church was formed in the 1990s. All of these churches are still active and are sending forth the light of the Gospel.

We are thankful to God for 250 years and pray that God will continue to bless and move in the congregation of Gum Swamp. On September 28, 2008 we will be celebrating our 250th Homecoming. We will start the morning at 10 A.M. with a concert from the Down East Boys. At 11 A.M. we will be having our Worship service with special singing from our choir and a message from our pastor. After the morning worship service we will be having dinner and invite everyone to stay and eat with us. About 2 P.M. we will have a final dedication service, which will include a short video, dedication service, and final remarks. You are welcome to come and be a part of any of these services.

As we prepare to celebrate this great achievement we would be remiss if we did not thank all the former pastors of Gum Swamp Church. Following is a list of pastors since 1882. We have recorded evidence of William Parker, Levi Braxton, and Elder Roach holding the services prior to 1882 but we cannot date these pastorates or be sure of the dates of any other pastors before 1882.

1882—Elder Parker
1886—R.K Hearn
1896—T.J. Barnhill
1900—P.J. Lucas
1906—T. Mclawhorn
1910—D.A. Windham
1912—W.D. Alexander
1920—Thomas Beamon
1921—N.D. Wiggs
1922—D.W. Alexander
1925—E.B. Joyner
1931—M.A. Woodard
1935—W.L. Jerrigan
1938—W.L. Moretz
1944—J.C. Griffin
1946—W.L. Moretz
1948—D.W. Alexander
1955—A.B. Chandler
1959—Guy Owens
1962—Luther Burns
1963—Austin Carter
1965—W.L. Poythress
1967—Jerry Rowe
1969—Harry Jones
1971—Jack Mayo
1973—Stewart Humphrey
1977—Jerry Rowe
1978—Bobby R. Taylor
1981—Ray Williamson
1988—Todd Pierce
1989—Thomas M. Parrish
1995—John Robert Harris
2000—Kevin Jackson

It is true that if a church will stay true to God, the gates of Hell will not prevail against it. As much as we are proud of our heritage here at Gum Swamp Church, we realize that we cannot live in the past. It is our desire for God to continue to use us and that we will still be standing, sharing the Gospel, on the day that the Lord returns to take us all home. May God bless our churches.

Is Jesus Your Shepherd Today?

by Jay Tew

One of the most helpful books for Christians in these dark and difficult days is the book of Psalms. I would say it is the most popular book in the Bible. It is the first to be memorized by children and young people.

The Twenty-third Psalm is popular because it presents a perfect picture of happiness and contentment. Everyone today is looking for happiness and contentment in the wrong places. We're looking at how much money we can make, maybe taking a cruise, or seeing if we can buy a more expensive home or car than our neighbor. God alone can provide happiness and contentment.

The Twenty-third Psalm is very practical and personal. God is ready to help the believer right now. It's not something that takes years for Him to complete, but it tells us what He will do instantly if we only believe.

A young Christian man was captured and placed in a prison camp. Everyone there tried to change the way he felt about God, but he wouldn't give in. A true Christian whose mind is filled with the Word of God cannot be changed. The Twenty-third Psalm was an anchor for his mind. He kept repeating it over and over and every time he found a spiritual blessing.

There are two kinds of Christians today. The first one knows Jesus Christ as their Savior and they have a "do-it yourself" attitude. They carry their burdens and never let go. The other Christian knows Jesus Christ as Savior and also as the Shepherd of their lives. Psalm 23 presents this kind of Christian.

The first verse assures us of wonderful peace and contentment. The Lord is my Shepherd and therefore I shall not want.

These great promises are offered to only those who have accepted God's wonderful plan of salvation. Sure, everyone has this choice, but not everyone makes the right choice. This all-powerful man who created the world and holds it in his hand, stands ready to be the Shepherd of every believer's life, and he'll protect each one if they make the right choice. Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18).

When I look back and think about the many times I've been sad, fearful, or angry about a difficult problem, I'm actually ashamed of myself. All the time the Shepherd was right there waiting for me to turn that burden over to Him. We should learn to let Jesus be the Shepherd of our lives every day.

Especially as young people today, we face a lot of heavy burdens such as gangs, peer pressure, one-parent families, and parents on the go.

The Lord is always there willing and able to help us if we only believe and accept Him.

In Psalm 23:1, the essential word is "my." We know about Jesus' death on the cross but sometimes we wait a long time before we accept Him as our Savior.

This reminds me of a story I read. This young boy named Sam had saved his money and bought a new ten-speed bike. His friend came over and was admiring it. "Look, it has ten speeds." Sam said, "yes, and it's mine." Another boy came over and said, "It has lights and a horn." Sam replied, "Yes and it's mine." Sam's two friends were admiring the bicycle, but he was enjoying it because it was his.

In the same way, many Christians admire the Lord and his Shepherd care but they still live with fear and frustration because they have not claimed Jesus as their Shepherd. There are many many thousands of people who know Christ as their Savior, but only a few know what it is to live without worry because they have allowed Jesus to be their Shepherd also.

A great actor returned to the church he attended when he was a child. He was asked to give a recitation during the morning worship service. The only thing he could remember that would be appropriate was the Twenty-third Psalm. He stepped on to the platform and recited Psalm Twenty-three with great power; when he had finished, the people applauded.

After the actor was seated, an old man stood up and walked to the platform. With a trembling voice he quoted the Twenty-third Psalm. Before he was finished almost everyone was in tears.

The actor stood up with tears running down his cheeks and said, "Gosh, I know the words of the psalm, but this man knows the Shepherd." It's great to memorize this psalm but it's important to translate it into our daily lives.

The fourth word is "shepherd." Jesus' definition of the word "shepherd" is given to us in John 10:4: "And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice."

Jesus leads the way for us. He knows exactly how we feel when we experience pain and heartache. We don't have to tell Him. He knows everything about us.

Notice that Psalm 23:1 closes by saying "...I shall not want." We could change this to "I shall lack nothing." Believers will not lack peace, because Jesus is their peace. They will not lack comfort for the Shepherd is there to meet every need. The Shepherd will provide everything that is needed.

The Lord is especially near to those

who are brokenhearted, for Psalm 34:18–19 says, "The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all." Jesus alone can heal the brokenhearted and provide peace amid the storms of life.

The second verse of Psalm 23 reads: "He maketh me to lie down in green pastures..." Think of the quiet refreshing hour when you're reading God's Word and praying. Today the world is spinning faster than ever before. If God did not intervene it would fly apart. Nerves are stretched to the breaking point. In the midst of this worldly rush, the Shepherd makes His flocks lie down in green pastures.

It's difficult to lie down with this turmoil going on all around us. The Shepherd will cause us to trust Him in quiet confidence.

A lady once said, "When my children come rushing home from school all out of breath and tell me that part of their world has fallen in, I actually feel faint."

At times David felt like fainting, for he said, "I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD" (Psalm 27:13–14).

Parents must first lead the way for their children. Then they can show them how they can trust Christ to be the Shepherd of their life, even in school needs, decision-making, and worldly situations.

The Lord uses many different ways to cause His children to lie down and just trust Him. Sometimes it might be through sorrow or sickness; often, sickness can be a great lesson. We are forced to lie down and look up to God for help.

A Christian who had once been a leader in the church drifted away because of worldly things. He stopped having family devotions and found it very easy to miss church services. On Monday morning he was out and ready for the week. One day his daughter became sick and was rushed to the hospital and the little girl looked up in his face and said, "Daddy, if you loved Jesus now like you used to, would I still be sick?" Can you imagine how he felt? He immediately came back to the Lord. He learned that when a Christian does the will of God, He will take care of the worldly things. We, as Christians, are to make our prayer requests with thankfulness. In Philippians 4:6 we read: "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

As believers if we stop and consider what the Lord has done for us in the past, it would encourage us to trust Him for greater things in the future.

We're living in an uptight world today. Lots of wrong things and wrong places for young people and older to get involved. Tension has pushed some to the very limits, and they feel that life has lost its meaning. You might hear someone say "Stop the world, I want to get off." It's refreshing to read the words of Psalm 23:2: "...he leadeth me beside the still waters."

Rushing waters describe the turmoil and the unrest that come from sins; still waters refer to the separation from the world and the quiet fellowship with God.

Imagine sitting beside a cool stream of water reading God's Word. How calm, peaceful, and refreshing that would be.

People, as well as sheep, become preoccupied with the everyday world and go astray. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).

We hear people say, "I'm so weary and so exhausted that I feel like I can't take another step. I need a month's vacation." Our bodies do need the proper rest, but weariness can come from the soul and spirit.

David described weariness as a roaring in a man's soul maybe because of anger or resentment. Tylenol will help remove the pain temporarily, but it will not correct the condition. Psalm 23:3 tell us "He restoreth my soul...."

As a person turns to the Savior in repentance, God forgives and wipes out even the record of his sins. According to 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." It's not uncommon to find yourself in a situation and become irritated with practically everybody.

Everyone's human nature waits for the world to revolve around Him. When the Shepherd restores and rearranges our goals in life, He makes adjustments. Life then revolves around the Lord. We learn to live with a small amount of tension and our spirit of love is restored.

When we, as God's children, struggle with bitterness and resentment this affects the soul as well as the body. We need the tender Shepherd's care.

This housewife once said, "I feel like a piece of furniture—just something to be used by my family. I'm completely bored with life."

When someone becomes bored they probably have their mind set on things they can see and handle. Instead, we should look to the Shepherd. There are numerous opportunities to do something to glorify God's name. Shut-ins would be thrilled with a telephone call or a card. This would really brighten their day. God will give rewards for even a cup of cold water if it is given in Jesus' name.

The shepherd David said, "...he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul..." (Psalm 23:2–3).

Sheep are a marked possession of the shepherd. Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27).

It's easy to recognize God's sheep, for they hear His voice. As God's sheep, believers are the personal possession of the Savior and Shepherd.

Sheep do not follow the shepherd just on Sunday, Wednesday night, and maybe on Sunday night if there's not a program on T.V. we'd like to watch. They follow Him every day.

We often wonder what takes place when a person dies. Again we turn to Psalm 23:4. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me..."

Christ died on the cross for the sins of everyone so that we might have

eternal life. Jesus met death so that we might not walk into death itself, but will pass through the valley of the shadow of death. Shadows may affect our emotions, but they cannot hurt us.

When an unsaved person dies, he walks into death itself only to meet God in judgment. The believer goes through the valley of the shadow of death, all because of Christ's death on the cross. A child of God does not fear death. The minute life leaves his body his soul and spirit goes to be with the Lord.

Heaven is a real place, joy, comfort, and happiness. No more sorrow. On earth there is joy but it is mixed with sorrow, sin and all kinds of evil frustrations.

We hear Christians say "I've accepted the Lord and I know I'm going to Heaven when I die, but I'm still afraid to die. What's wrong with me?" Psalm 23:4 says "...I will fear no evil: for thou art with me..." The Lord never leaves us. He's always there. All we need to do is call upon His name.

In Psalm 23:4, we read, "...thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." The rod is a reminder of the Word of God.

Sometimes Satan will try to make Christians doubt their salvation and will make them wonder if they are in God's fold. What can we do but turn to the Word of God. John 5:24 says, "Verily, verily I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." Now we can say that "Yes, I know that I am one of God's sheep, because the rod, God's Word, tells me so."

Often Satan would like to scatter the flock of God. The Word of God is the protector.

In Psalm 23:5 we read, "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies..."

Salvation is the greatest blessing anyone will ever experience. When Jesus hung on the cross, enemies surrounded Him.

In this day it seems the Devil is working overtime. God's children become nervous, but we need to let go and let God have His way. He is the conqueror of all darkness. God often spreads out a table of spiritual blessing for Christians when they are facing a physical crisis in life. Sometimes at home or in a hospital room. God doesn't always heal us instantly, but in due time as He sees fit.

I'm reminded of this sixth grade boy who was always getting into trouble. The teacher would often tell him that he was impossible. Soon he began to believe it. Why be difficult when with a little extra effort, you can become impossible? Nothing the teacher did seemed to work.

After school one day, the teacher called the boy to her desk. She opened the drawer and pulled out a bag of candy. What a surprise? The boy was speechless. While they were enjoying the candy she talked to him about his discipline. The kindness of the teacher brought results. From then on he followed instructions and was a different person.

Notice the closing words of this Twenty-third Psalm that we have talked about today. "...I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

The Apostle John wrote, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye may have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the son of God" (1 John 5:13). It is God's desire that all who have accepted Christ as Savior will have this great assurance of salvation and a future home in Heaven.

Can you say, with the psalmist, I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever? Do you know Jesus Christ as your Savior and as your Shepherd?

If not, there's no time like right now. God is always willing and able if we will only humble ourselves and call upon His name.

Youth Sunday Sermon

by Michaela Tart

Good morning. My name is Michaela Tart, for those of you who don't know me. I'm a youth here at Roberts Grove Church. Mrs. Susan asked me to speak this morning. I'll be speaking today about God's plan for you, the gifts we receive from him, and what we can do for God.

In society today, a popular question among Christians is one that questions the love and power God has over us. You hear people say, "Well why should I listen to God; what has He done for me lately?" Some examples we hear from people are:

• The lottery last weekend; I didn't pick the winning ticket, but I prayed I would.

• How about that history test I took the other day: I asked God to help me pass it, but a 67 hardly makes the cut.

• Oh, on I-95 yesterday, I got stuck in traffic for two hours, and missed my favorite TV shows.

• Or what about I lost my best friend in a car accident a few years back; she was only 17. Why did He take her from me?

• Yeah, my sister was diagnosed with cancer, just last month. The doctors said it could be fatal. How could God do that to me, why put our family through that? I mean we serve Him, I go to church and read my Bible. Why?

It's through times like these, whether they're big disappointments or little let downs, we see Christians begin to question their faith in God. People begin to think, "Well if God loves me so much, then why would He allow something like this to happen? I mean, if He's so great and almighty, how come He didn't help me out back there?

The trials and difficulties you face in life though, should not be considered punishment by the Lord, or viewed as Him forgetting about you. Instead, use each new obstacle as a way of getting closer to God, and expect your trials to turn into faith-filled triumphs. All you have to do is put your trust in God, ask for His help, and then work your way through the problem. God would never test you with something He didn't think you could handle, so don't get discouraged if times get rough. Just call upon the Lord and you can make it through anything. Such help from the Lord is talked about in Matthew 19:26. (Read the Scripture!)

Seventeen years ago, on October 5, in 1990, I weighed two pounds and seven ounces. Born three months premature, the doctors sent me to Chapel Hill. I wasn't breathing on my own and had to be put on a ventilator. My parents were informed that even if I managed to live through the next twenty-four hours, complications would still exist. There was a high chance that I would suffer from some type of mental handicap, I could grow up blind, or even be deaf. Though all odds looked to be against me, my family didn't give up and continued to pray for some kind of miracle, and by the grace of God, their prayers were answered. It wasn't long before I started breathing on my own, and my condition continued to improve from there. Standing up here today, I'm proud to say that I can walk and talk like an average person, and don't have any problems with my sight or vision. I take honors and AP classes at South Johnston High School, and even run on the cross-country team. I am who I am today, because God chose for me to survive. He has a plan for me, just as He has a plan for every other human being that steps foot into this world. In Ecclesiastes 3:1–8, the bible describes God's reasoning for all that happens. (Read the Scripture!)

Though it's hard to believe at times, God has a reason for every little thing that occurs in our lives, good or bad. Yes, difficult things do happen, things that tear us down to the point where we think we might break in half; however, it's these discouragements that God wishes for us to learn from. Such trials in life are presented to us to test our faith, to help us grow in spirit, and so that we may get one step closer to accomplishing the plan God has laid out for us.

Now back to the question we were discussing before, "What has God done for me?" I'll openly admit that I'm not a perfect Christian; in fact you can't really say anyone is, but it greatly troubles me to hear believers in Christ ask such a thing of their Lord. If you could just stop for a moment and take a look at all that God has already done, you might be surprised at what you see. The mere fact that a person is alive with breath in their body is a gift in itself. Cherish each and every day given to you by the Lord and rejoice in His graciousness, which gives you life. Be thankful for the friends and family you have, and thank Him for providing for your basic needs. Just be happy that He shows you constant love, and keeps a watchful eye over His children day and night. Be gracious for the prayers He listens to, and for the ones He answers. Above all, we should be eternally grateful for God's gift of His only Son, as a sacrifice to save mankind from their sins, and it tells us in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This Scripture explains how the Lord loved us so much that He was willing to give up His only Son. It is by such a great gift that God has given us the chance of eternal life, through His salvation and forgiveness. He has already done so much for us, and even still continues to bless us in our daily lives.

It's kind of funny though if you stop to think about it, when everything's going our way, and life's treating you pretty good, we tend to forget about the big man upstairs, and figure. "Hey we've got everything under control; I can handle this." But, the second something goes wrong, and we find ourselves in a bit of a bind, we're pretty quick to shout out, "God, why me, what have I done to deserve this," when in all reality, as Christians we should be asking ourselves, "Hey, wait, speaking of God, yeah, what have I done for Him lately?" In Exodus 20:1–18, the Lord describes how He wants us to live and lists the things that we must do as Christians, in order to serve Him. All He asks of us is our loyalty to Him, and faith as a Christian servant. If we obey the commandments He has set before us, love and serve Him with all our heart, and spread His message to all that we can, then God says that we will one day be rewarded with eternal salvation and a place in Heaven. There we will live forever, with content and happiness, along side our almighty and loving God. Revelation 7:15–17 explains just how great Heaven will be, and emphasizes that Christians will never suffer again. (Read the Scripture!)

Things may not always go right for us; every now and then we're going to run into some kind of trouble, and the Devil will tempt us in so many ways. Stand strong though, as a Christian of God, and call out to your Lord to provide you with the strength to go onward. Don't let that big disappointment or bad day get you down. Don't let it turn you against God, and blame Him for your troubles. Instead, thank Him for testing your faith, for trying to make you a stronger Christian, and then ask for Him to help see you through all obstacles that get in your way. I have one last piece of Scripture I would like to read; it's my favorite, actually, and sums up everything I have talked about today. If you would, please turn with me to Psalm 23:1–6. (Read the Scripture!) Thank you!

Best Friends and Faith Traditions

by the Reverend Marc Boswell

A recent conversation with a fellow Free Will Baptist has left me more than a little concerned about the existing stereotypes of the Islamic faith tradition. During the course of the conversation, my friend confessed that he did not know much about the religion or its holy book, the Qur'an. However, he did know that all Muslims wanted to "kill, enslave, or tax all non-Muslims." Someone told him that this is what the Qur'an teaches and he asked me if this understanding was correct.

This conversation was striking as it occurred on the heels of other discussions with Free Will Baptists in which Islam was believed to be a purely violent religion which advocated "blowing people up" to "go to heaven." This common misunderstanding is widespread not just among FWBs, but among many citizens, religious and non-religious, of the United States. These stereotypes are easily affirmed and strengthened by the constant barrage of video clips and images of radical Muslim extremists on the nightly news. Stories of the harsh treatment of Muslim women tantalize our ears as we wonder why they would wear head coverings or an article of clothing which covers their entire body. We cast nervous glances if anyone with olive-colored skin boards our flight. Our inboxes are filled with forwarded emails suggesting a particular presidential candidate is "Muslim" because his first and last name sounds funny—not realizing the name stems from the original language of the Old Testament (the Hebrew word barakah means "blessing" or "prosperity").

I assured my friend that I was *not* sympathetic toward the heinous crimes committed by Muslim extremists, just as I could not support the violent acts of Eric Rudolph, an American terrorist who bombed a series of abortion clinics in the southern United States because he believed abortions conflicted with morals and values derived from the Christian tradition. Clayton Waagner, similarly, was convicted in 2003 for sending false anthrax letters to abortion clinics in the name of the Christian God. I did not bother to mention the number of crosses which had been burnt and are still burned throughout the South in the name of a radical understanding of Christianity (the KKK). We did not have time to discuss the lynchings, rapes, and murders of blacks by white Christians in the Jim Crow South. It slipped my mind to address the thousands of Jews killed by Christian crusaders in the 11th and 12th centuries—Jews killed "for practice" as the crusaders made their way across Eastern Europe to wage war with Islamic political groups in the Holy Land.

I knew if I mentioned these classic examples of Christian injustices it would only cause my friend to become defensive. He would, understandably, want to make clear that he did not actually take part in those practices, institutions, or violent movements. He would try to explain that those expressions and understandings of Christianity are certainly not the way he, his local congregation, or denomination practice their faith today. Just like my Christian friend, I have met several Muslims from Atlanta to Seattle who also become defensive as they, too, want to make clear that they do not condone the acts of violence, extremism, and the misappropriations of the Qur'an.

I also wanted to explain to my friend that Muslims interpret their scripture (the Qur'an) in a variety of manners—just like Christians. Distribute a passage of the Bible to an Egyptian Coptic, a Free Will Baptist, a Methodist, a Roman Catholic, and a Pentecostal Holiness Christian and one will see just how differently we interpret our own sacred texts. For that matter, one could give a passage to three people in the same denomination or local congregation and get three varying interpretations. Likewise, Muslim scholars, laity, and clerics have been debating the meaning of certain texts for the past 1,400 years. Their scriptures contain a number of "violent" texts which can be taken out of historical and literary context and used to condone certain acts of extremism. If we do not find this to be true about the Christian Bible, one only has to peruse the Psalms, the book of Judges, Joshua, or texts within Revelation that, if taken out of context, can be (and have been) used to justify many of the atrocities and injustices mentioned above.

What I did share with my friend that evening was a personal story. It was a story of my visit to the local mosque (a place of worship for Muslims) in

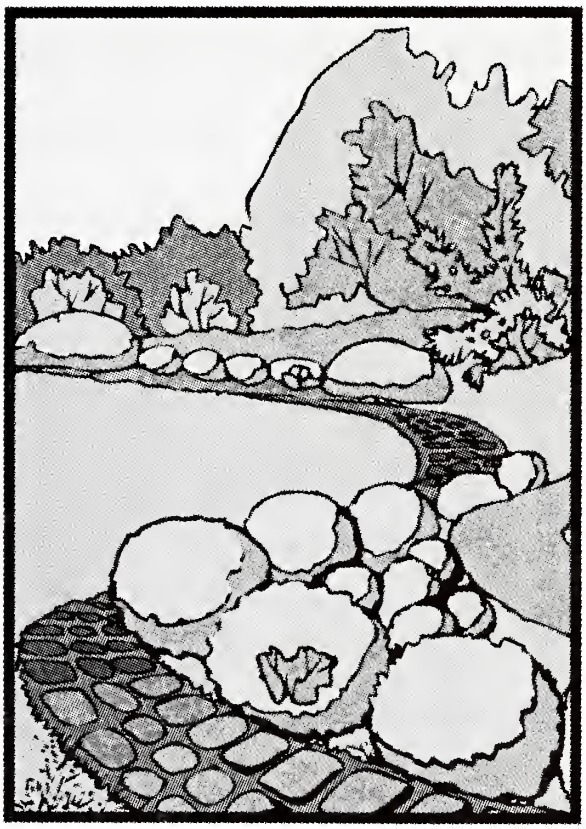
Greenville, NC. While taking a class entitled "World Religions," I was assigned the task of visiting two places of worship for religious traditions other than Christianity. After contacting the minister, or imam, of the mosque, I arrived one Friday at noon for their weekly time of corporate worship. An elderly Muslim man named Ramadan, dressed in khakis and a white collared shirt, met me at the door with a broadening smile and a welcoming handshake.

After observing their worship, I found myself in conversation with a young man from Kuwait named Yousef, a junior at East Carolina University. He asked if I was a Christian, and when I responded, "Yes," he asked which denomination. I only told him I was "Baptist," assuming he did not grow up learning about Free Will Baptists in the Middle East. However, he pressed me further, asking "which kind" of Baptist I was. Upon telling him I was Free Will Baptist he broke out in a wide grin and began to tell me about his best friend and roommate at ECU, who was also a Free Will Baptist.

This was the story I related to my FWB friend after he asked if all Muslims wanted to "kill, enslave, or tax" non-Christians. While, admittedly, my friends from the Greenville mosque do not represent all Muslims, bin Laden and the rest of Al-Qaeda, likewise, do not represent Yousef and Ramadan. I hope Ramadan never has to experience an uninformed and malicious stereotype of his Muslim faith from a follower of Jesus of Nazareth. I hope I never forget the smile on Yousef's face and the excited tone of his voice as he spoke of his Free Will Baptist best friend.

In The Garden

by Celia Hales



The garden that was entrusted to my mother has undergone a radical transformation in the past ten years. My mother, Joyce Hales, a member of the Ayden Free Will Baptist Church and a resident of Zebulon, North Carolina, has indeed used her talents to create a beautiful yard in the years since my father (Ed Hales) died.

The transformation was made necessary by the havoc wrecked by Hurricane Fran in the 1990s. In one night all the pine trees in the backyard—at some distance from the house—fell to the ground. My mother, lying in bed in a safe brick home, heard the trees, one by one, hit the ground. Gone was the tree-shaded garden where my husband Paul and I were married a few short years earlier. My mother had to employ men with heavy equipment to clear the 75–100 trees that had fallen over. Pine trees, we learned, have shallow root systems, and the hurricane's force was just too much for them.

Now the garden has been totally transformed into a sunny place. The main features are two pools, one with a waterfall, and as balance a gazebo right across from the pool. Almost miraculously, despite the falling trees, the gazebo mostly escaped damage and was easily repaired.

Yes, my mother has used the talents entrusted to her well. The garden she designed is very different now. But when faced with a lemon in the form of a destructive hurricane, my mother chose to make lemonade. And that has made all the difference.

BUILDING WOMEN OF INTEGRITY

Since its start in 1995 in West Chester, Ohio, American Heritage Girls has seen tremendous growth, impacting thousands of girls. AHO was founded by a group of parents wanting an alternative scouting program for their daughters. American Heritage Girls troops are owned by charter partners, allowing the program to be a fantastic **outreach ministry** to girls. AHG continues to focus on building women of integrity through its strong dedication to service, spiritual growth, and outdoor skills. The program encourages girls to put "legs on their faith" by serving others in their communities and striving to make a positive difference in their world. The vision of American Heritage Girls is to be the **premier National Scouting Organization for young women that encourages family involvement and embraces Christian Values**.

PROGRAM EMPAHSES

FIVE LEVELS

- Pathfinder (ages 5–6)
- Tenderfoot (ages 6–9)
- Explorer (ages 9–12)
- Pioneer (ages 12–14)
- Patriot (ages 14–18)

- Developing Teamwork and Building Confidence
- Life Skill Enhancement
- Girl Leadership
- Social Development
- Character Development
- Spiritual Development

For more information: call (252) 526-9908

SEPTEMBER

DISASTER RELIEF MONTH for Original Free Will Baptists

Sunday, September 28, 2008

Good Samaritan Sunday

DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY on this special Sunday to pray for the Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Ministry and to give a love offering for financial assistance.

FOREIGN MISSIONS
FULFILLING THE GREAT COMISSION

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:18–20).

FULFILLING THE GREAT COMISSION
PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

by Letecia J. Segay

I believe that fulfilling the Great Commission of God is one of the responsibilities of every Christian. My husband, Rev. Andy, and I have three home Bible studies in spite of our office work from Monday to Friday as part of our commitment to the Lord and to our local church, the Emmanuel First Free Will Baptist in San Pedro, Puerto Princesa City.

On June 28,2008 there were 10 people who decided to obey the commandments of our Lord Jesus which is baptism as the result of our Bible studies. Pray for these 10 new converts that they will all become mature and responsible in their Christian life. It is a thrilling experience for a Christian to win more souls for Christ and obey His commandments for it brings happiness for the Lord. Let us not grow weary in doing the ministry of our Lord that is entrusted to every Christian. There is joy in serving Him. To God be the glory!

The briefing of the Rev. Andy R. Segay for the candidates of baptism.

From left to right; Deacon Ruben Bacomo, Jojo J. Bebit, Ruben P. Velarde, Bryan V. Velarde, Delia V. Velarde, Catherine E. Fuertes, Sharmaine J. Bebit, Doreena J. Talimbay. Nestor C. Daco, Alvin J. Bebit. Christopher P. Sadang, and the Rev. Andy R. Segay. Ten of the people shown are candidates for baptism.

BAPTISMAL SERVICE
LIBERIA, WEST AFRICA

by Pastor Gnininte

TO GOD BE THE GLORY
PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

by Letecia J. Segay

Matthew 28:19–20 is the great commission of God that was entrusted to every Christian. On July 19, 2008, Ronald Ramos and his wife, Rowena, gave their commitment to obey the great commission of our Lord, which is baptism. That day was very special for Ronald because it was his birthday also. He expressed to us that he felt joy in his heart in fulfilling the commandment of God during that time. Our brethren at the Emmanuel First Free Will Baptist Church in San Pedro are so grateful to God for another couple committing their lives to the Lord. Pray for them that they may continually serve the Lord with full commitment to become mature and responsible in their Christian life. Glory be to God!

The singing choir brethren at the Emmanuel First Free Will Baptist Church at San Pedro, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan while performing the baptism service.

Sis. Rowena Ramos in obedience to the great commission of God, officiated by the Rev. Andy R. Segay and assisted by Deacon Ruben Bacomo.

BAPTISMAL SERVICE
BETHEL MISSION, CITY OF RAMOS ARIZPE. COAH. SALTILLO, MEXICO

by Antonio Escobar Pena

A baptismal service was held on July 22, 2008 at ten-thirty in the morning, in a service of praise, and the preaching of the Word of God over the assurance of salvation and the promises made to the Lord from those who were to be baptized.

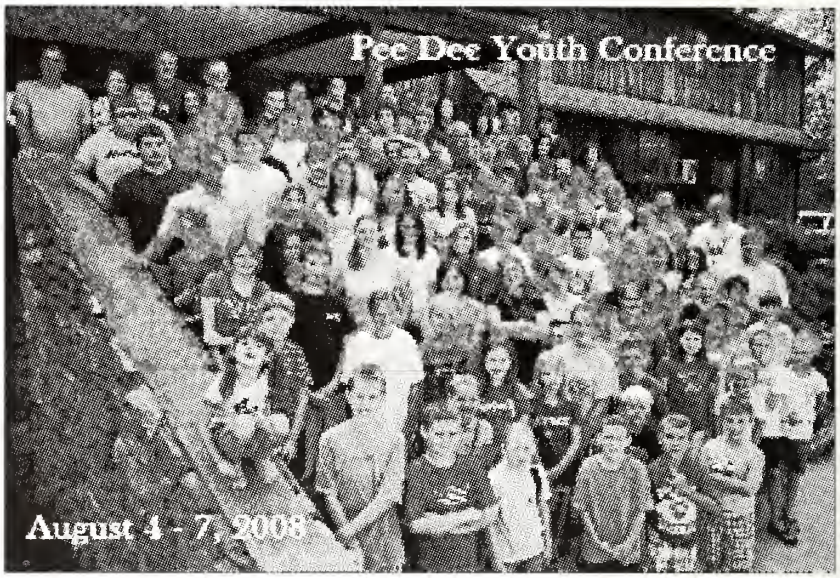
All of them listened reverently to the Word of God. Next, all of the brethren that were to be baptized read aloud the Act of the church. This done, all of them promised to fulfill the Act of the church. We then led them to the waters of baptism and one by one they were baptized. Ten brethren were obedient to this service according to the command of the Lord.

Seven were baptized from the Bethel Mission. Three were baptized from the Christ Cometh Church. They were all then presented the following Sunday in an evening service as active members.

Let us pray for these brethren and that the Lord will continue to bring in every day those who shall be saved.

SOMETHING NEW

The days of a week-long conference for women is much less in demand than it was in the late 1970s and early to mid 1980s. Fewer and fewer women have the time to take off a full week from jobs and family life to attend such a conference. Therefore, the Woman's Auxiliary is trying to change and adapt to the needs of women by trying another long weekend conference this fall. The name of the Conference is "September Women's Weekend Retreat" and the dates for it are September 19–21. The speaker is Becky Jo Sumner from Hickory Chapel OFWB Church in Ahoskie, NC. Ladies, this would be a great time to get together with other ladies of your church for a spiritual and relaxing weekend in the mountains at Cragmont. Send your registration to Joan Little, 7063 Stantonsburg Rd., Farmville, NC 27828. Her phone number is (252) 753-3217.



AVAILABLE DATES

August 11–14	upstairs main, lodge, motel, dorms
August 15–17	4 lodge rooms, dorms
August 18–27	main, motel, lodge, dorms
August 28–31	9 lodge rooms, motel, dorms, Hollifield House
September 1–3	everything
September 4–10	main, motel, dorms, Hollifield House
September 11–14	motel, dorm, Hollifield House
September 15–17	everything
September 18–21	north main, Hollifield House, dorm
September 22–25	everything
September 26–28	one dorm, Hollifield House
September 29–October 1	everything
October 2–5	one dorm
October 6–8	everything
October 13–15	main, 9 lodge rooms, 7 motel, dorms, Hollifield House
October 22–22	motel, dorms, Hollifield House
October 27–29	6 lodge rooms, motel, dorms, Hollifield House
November 3–5	everything
November 6–9	main south end, dorms, Hollifield House
November 10–12	everything
November 13–16	dorms, Hollifield House
November 17–19	everything
November 20–23	dorms, Hollifield House
November 24–26	everything
November 27–30	call for availability
December 6–10	everything
December 11–14	dorms
December 15–31	everything

WHAT'S IN THE PANTRY?

Thanks to many auxiliaries, youth groups, individuals, and churches, the food pantries at the Children's Home are "well stocked" with canned and dry goods. The outpouring of support for this program has been tremendous. If your church is interested in helping with this need, just earmark your donation as "food program." These funds will allow us to purchase the perishable items (bread, milk, eggs, meats) necessary to continue providing nutritious well-balanced meals for the children we serve.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for your Children's Home.

CAMPUS VISITS

We have had several visitors in the last couple of months. If you or your church group would like to visit the Children's Home for a short tour, or you plan to stop by to drop off supplies, please call in advance so we can make arrangements to have staff available. Shown at right is one of our visitors, Northern FWB.

2008 CHANGE FOR CHILDREN UPDATE

As of August 5, the amount collected for Change for Children 2008 is $51,679.27. This total represents donations from 119 churches and several individuals.

5TH ANNUAL PAPER PRODUCTS/CLEANING SUPPLY DRIVE—A GRAND SLAM

On July 25, the staff and children of the Children' Home were treated to an evening at the ballgame at the MudCats Stadium in Zebulon, NC. There were more than 1100 tickets sold to Free Will Baptist groups and other churches that participated in the paper products/cleaning supply drive. The MudCats won the game, and the evening ended with a spectacular fireworks show.

This drive was started four years ago by the Spring Branch FWB Church, (Walstonburg) Layman's League. Bill Doane was the Layman's League president at the time the idea was born, and it has caught on and keeps growing larger each year. Members of Spring Branch and members from Rose Hill Free Will Baptist Church, Winterville, were not only collectors of supplies, but they gave up watching several innings of the MudCats ballgame to deliver and unload the supplies. I'm sure they can tell you firsthand, that according to how much they unloaded, we got more this year than any previous year.

The Children's Home extends to all who participated a big "thank you." We are so blessed to be part of such a loving denomination. The blessings just keep on coming.

NEEDS LIST

- Personal Hygiene Items: antiperspirant (boys and girls), body wash, body lotions, bath powder, shampoo
- Twin-size comforter, sheet sets, blankets, pillow cases
- Photo paper
- Mini-blinds (vinyl) [call for sizes]
- 33 gallon or larger trash receptacles
- Trash bags (33 gal. or larger)
- 5 aluminum or fiberglass "A" step ladders for cottage
- Digital camera
- Three-ring binders

OPPORTUNITIES AT MOC

Space Available:
Space is still available for Fall 2008 at Mount Olive College. First time college attendees and college transfers can apply online at www.moc.edu and arrange a campus tour by contacting admissions@moc.edu or by calling (800) 653-0854.

Transform your life and career at MOC—One Night A Week:
One night a week programs, designed for working adults, are offered at convenient locations in Mount Olive, Johnston Community College, New Bern, Washington, Wilmington, and Research Triangle Park, NC. To learn about the most convenient location for your region, call 1 (800) NEW GOAL. You will be connected to the location nearest you.

Evening College at Mount Olive:
Contact Allison Sullivan at asullivan@moc.edu or call (800) 653-0854.
- Health Care Management (HCM) begins September 22, 2008 at Johnston Community College (JCC). 6–10 P.M.
- Early Child Education (ECE) begins September 8, 2008 at Mount Olive and Feb 5, 2009, at JCC. 6–10 P.M.

Mount Olive College at New Bern:
Contact Vaughn Purnell at vpurnell@moc.edu or call 1 (800) NEW GOAL
- Heritage (AS degree) Program begins October 1, 2008. 6–10 P.M.
- CJC begins on October 23, 2008. 6–10 P.M.
- ECE begins November 4, 2008. 6–10 P.M.
- MOD begins November 8, 2008. 6–10 P.M.
- HCM begins November 10, 2008. 6–10 P.M.

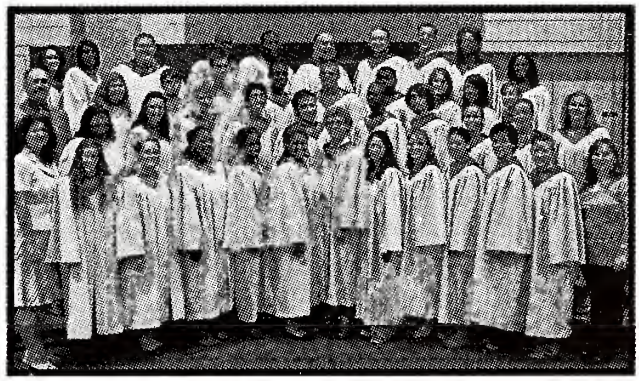
Mount Olive College at Washington:
Contact Dr. Evan Duff at eduff@moc.edu or call 1 (800) NEW GOAL
- ECE begins September 4, 2008. 6–10 P.M.
- CJC begins October 21, 2008. 6–10 P.M.
- Heritage (AS degree) begins October 27, 2008. 6–10 P.M.
- Religion begins November 13, 2008. 6–10 P.M.

Mount Olive College at Research Triangle Park:
Contact Dr. Robin Spaid at rspaid@moc.edu or call 1 (800) NEW GOAL
- Heritage begins September 8, 2008. 6–10 P.M.
- HCM begins September 22, 2008. 6–10 P.M.
- CJC begins September 29, 2008. 6–10 P.M.
- ECE begins October 27, 2008. 6–10 P.M.

Mount Olive College at Wilmington:
Contact Dr. Marna Davenport at mdavenport@moc.edu or call 1 (800) NEW GOAL
- MOD begins November 5, 2008. 6–10 P.M.
- HCM begins September 8, 2008. 6–10 P.M.
- CJC begins October 9, 2008. 6–10 P.M.

Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner

Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
Mount Olive College
Saturday, September 27, 2008 at 6 P.M.



Mount Olive College Concert Choir

The annual Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner is provided by the College to express gratitude to Free Will Baptists for their support at the annual dinners. To help Free Will Baptists understand the ministry of the College and the educational service it provides for its students, the Concert Choir, Free Spirit, and the Mount Olive College Singers will provide a program of sacred selections.

This event honors the Bridge Builders from the 2007 dinners; however, all friends of the College are invited. Bridge Builders are those who make unrestricted gifts of $100 or more at their county dinners. They have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Mount Olive College.

Reply Form

(Please return by Tuesday, September 23, 2008)

___Yes, I plan to attend the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner, Saturday, September 27, 2008.

There will be _____ in my party attending.

Name:_____

Address:_____

Phone Number: (_____)_____

Church: _____

Please mail to:
Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss
Mount Olive College
634 Henderson Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(919) 658-7744 or (800) 653-0854
jfackiss@moc.edu

All friends of Mount Olive College are invited

ASBILL SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED AT MOC

Gibson H. Asbill has established an Endowed Scholarship Fund at Mount Olive College in honor of his wife, Carrie Lou Bowden Asbill. Mrs. Asbill was a member of the first student body in Mount Olive, NC in September 1954 (formerly known as Mount Allen Junior College) as well as one of the two students in the first graduating class on May 27, 1955.

"I have always been proud to have attended MOC," Mrs. Asbill stated.

Mr. and Mrs. Asbill have six children and seven grandchildren and in September will celebrate their 54th wedding anniversary. They are members of Emmaus Baptist Church in Dudley.

The Carrie Lou Bowden Asbill Endowed Scholarship is for worthy students with financial need who otherwise might not have the opportunity of a college education. Recipients must demonstrate strong evidence of personal integrity, moral character, good citizenship, academic promise, and a sincere commitment to attaining an education. The scholarship will be renewable on a semester basis contingent upon the recipient maintaining satisfactory academic progress, good citizenship, and fulfilling the terms of the agreement.

LASSITER JOINS MOC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Donnie E. Lassiter of Selma has joined the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees for a six-year term. The 30-member Board is charged with the oversight and governance of the College. MOC Trustees have the responsibility of establishing the identity of Mount Olive College through leading, planning, and interpreting.

Lassiter is the retired co-founder of Heartland Payment Systems, Inc., a financial services company. In addition to serving on the MOC Board of Trustees, Lassiter serves on the Board of Directors of Howell Woods Educational Facility, Cragmont Assembly, and the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries. He is also chairman for the Johnston County Chapter of Ducks Unlimited and serves on the ECU Hospitality Board. A member of Selma Original Free Will Baptist Church, Lassiter has served the church as deacon, trustee, Sunday School superintendent, and various other capacities.

When asked why he felt it was important to serve on the MOC Board of Trustees Lassiter stated, "In my role as trustee I would like to assist Mount Olive College in their mission of serving students through a Christian focus."

"Don Lassiter brings to the Board an impressive record from the business world," states Dr. J. William Byrd, president of MOC. "He has demonstrated keen insight and an entrepreneurial spirit in managing his business interests. At the same time, he has never lost his love of people and the Free Will Baptist Church, and we are fortunate that he has elected to join the Board of Trustees of Mount Olive College. I am confident he will provide outstanding leadership and service in his work with the College."

Lassiter and his wife of 35 years, Linda Vann Lassiter, have two children, Sara Massey, a recent graduate of Meredith College and Trent Lassiter, a rising senior at MOC majoring in business management.

Several MOC upperclassmen sit atop the Mount Olive College sign visible from Hwy. 117. The students are waving, as if to say, "Welcome to MOC." More than 300 new freshmen and transfer students arrived on campus in August and were introduced to MOC college life through "Welcome Week" activities.

AGRIBUSINESS PROGRAM AT MOC HAS A GOOD CROP OF STUDENT INTERNS

The agribusiness program at Mount Olive College is relatively new and fairly small compared to larger institutions. But perhaps that is part of the appeal for the 20 or so students that are currently enrolled in either the agribusiness or agriscience education programs at MOC.

"One of the greatest things about the agribusiness/agriscience education program here at Mount Olive College is that we are able to provide our students with experiential learning opportunities in the classroom and through our expanding internship program," stated Dr. Sandy Maddox, associate director of the Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center at Mount Olive College. "The support received from the agribusiness community to provide internships to our students has been great and we are looking for others to participate in the future."

This summer/fall, seven students within the MOC Agribusiness Department are interning throughout Eastern North Carolina. The students can be found in fields doing crop research; on hog farms learning the ins-and-outs of pork production; in retail establishments surveying farmers; behind desks researching farmland preservation practices; working with plant genetics to improve crop yields or simply chasing goats because it fell under the category of "other duties as assigned." These students, many of whom had never worked a single day on a farm, are taking what they have learned in the classroom, and putting it to work.

"We think it is important for our students to have a variety of internship opportunities," says Dr. Maddox. "They are gaining real world experiences that we hope they will put to use as they enter the field of agriculture as educators or business leaders."

David J. Whitfield, Jr. of La Grange knows after a summer spent on a sow farm moving, feeding, checking, and washing hogs that he has ruled out one career option.

"I have found out that I do not want to be a hog farmer," Whitfield smiled. "It has been a good experience though, because without such opportunities, I would not really know what is available in the field of agriculture." D. J. is a member of Walnut Creek OFWB Church, Wayne County.

Chris Stroud of Deep Run also spent 12 weeks being totally immersed in pork production from farrowing to finishing. The internship, provided by the North Carolina Pork Council, has opened Stroud's eyes to the importance of pork production in the bigger food industry picture.

"I have seen some of the major forces shaping the pork industry such as consumer preferences, government policies, global markets, resources, and the ever-changing world of technology," Stroud analyzed.

Although Stroud does not plan to work on a hog farm after college, he thinks the experience will be helpful as he enters the classroom, this time as an agricultural education teacher.

"My dream is to teach high school agricultural education and provide my students with a better understanding for and appreciation of agriculture," Stroud continued. He is a member of Piney Grove OFWB Church, Duplin County.

Dr. Maddox has been thrilled with the internship program and with the success of the students, each of which will complete their placement this fall with presentations and seminars.

"It is all about finding just the right balance to teach, yet not overwhelm the students, while at the same time exposing them to a variety of opportunities, cultures, and personalities," Dr. Maddox said. "We are excited about the internship program that is developing and hope that we can continue to provide students and agribusinesses with these enriching experiences. I think many of the businesses that have opened their doors to our students have been very impressed with the job they have done."

With an anticipated incoming freshman class of 18 to 24 agribusiness or agriscience education majors, the department will double within the next few months. However, individual attention and a continued focus on hands-on internships such as those experienced by this summer's "crop," will continue to be a major focus of the program.

For more information about the agribusiness or agriscience education programs at Mount Olive College call or email Dr. Maddox at 919-658-2505 or <smaddox@moc.edu>.

HEALING THROUGH GIVING

When a tragic automobile accident took the life of 17 year-old Reece Richardson, it nearly devastated his entire family, especially his dad, Rickey. The father and son duo had always been best friends and did everything together.

Rickey describes Reece as a typical teenager who loved to hunt, fish, play soccer, and hang out with his friends. He was an Honors student and a Christian, having accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior at the age of 12. Very active in his church, Kenly Free Will Baptist, Reece had eight years of perfect attendance. He was a standout soccer player for North Johnston High School, and even when Reece played away games, the Richardsons always made it a priority to find and attend a church in the area. Reece was also a black-belt in karate, though many of his peers never knew this because, as his dad said, "Reece was not a fighter, but rather a peace maker."

"Reece was an encourager and wise beyond his years," Rickey stated. "He always answered a question with a question. Something he had learned from my dad. It was a practice that helped his friends solve their own problems."

Looking back, Rickey has no regrets about his relationship with his son only that their time together was cut too short.

"When you lose a child, it is like losing an arm or a leg; in our case, we lost a part of our heart," Rickey expressed. "We have been so blessed to have a child like Reece in our care for 17 years; he belongs to God and always had. If we had the choice to have Reece in our life for these short 17 years even knowing what we now know about the agony of losing a child, we would gladly do it again. Our prayer is that God will use Reece's life to carry Jesus down the road to others that might not have accepted the free gift He offers. We know He has already done this but pray that He will use us and give us the strength to do His will and fulfill His purpose."

Out of grief for the loss of their son, and wanting his loving spirit to live on, the Richardson family, Rickey and his wife, Becky, and daughter, Rebecca, have established a scholarship fund at Mount Olive College. The fund will help a financially deserving student athlete from North Johnston High School attend Mount Olive College. In the scholarship guidelines, the Richardson Family noted that the student need not be a "superstar" athlete, just one that has tried sports and has given the effort to stick it out for one season, boy or girl.

"Reece would like this because he was a team player," Rickey stated. "He loved for everyone that wanted to play a sport to play, regardless of their skills or social status. By establishing this scholarship, we want Reece's life story to be an encouragement to other young people to enjoy life within the context of God's commands. Reece's life was a testimony to loving God and loving others, no matter what. He was not perfect by any means, but he was a great kid and he knew Jesus Christ as his Savior, and it showed in his life."

The Richardsons' chose to establish the endowed scholarship at Mount Olive College for several reasons.

"My Dad was an avid supporter of MOC, and we have always admired the small school environment, its integrity and character," Rickey remarked. "MOC provides a safe environment for students to seek a Christian education without being persecuted by the secular world. Also, Reece played his first soccer games of the 2007 season at MOC in the Jamboree and his last soccer game of 2007 at MOC, which was an indoor tournament. We thought this was pretty ironic."

Reece had also considered MOC as one of his future college choices, thinking he could play soccer at the institution and still be close to home.

"We derive a great amount of satisfaction knowing the scholarship fund will help a student get a Christian education in a fine school," Rickey said. "It is our hope that we can build this endowment to pay for a student's entire education at MOC. Reece knew he was blessed and wanted to help others who were not as blessed financially as we are. Not that we are financially wealthy by any means, but we are more blessed than some and Reece recognized this. Helping others that are less fortunate has always been a part of our lifestyle."

To help fund the Reece Richardson Endowed Scholarship Fund at Mount Olive College an annual softball tournament, dubbed the Reecey Cup, is being held in Kenly, NC. In February, teams from all over eastern North Carolina participated in the inaugural event. Because the two-day tournament included Sunday games, there was a Christian tent service open to all players and their families. It is what Reece would have wanted!

The Sunday tent services and the scholarship at Mount Olive College are ways that Reece Richardson will continue to be a blessing to others. If you would like to know more about the Reecey Cup or the Reece Richardson Endowed Scholarship at Mount Olive College, please call (919) 658-7750.

HINNANT ENDOWED MINISTERIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED AT MOC

The D. Frank and Anne Exum Hinnant Endowed Ministerial Scholarship Fund has been established at Mount Olive College to provide financial assistance for students preparing for the Christian ministry.

Mr. Hinnant, a retired direct factory representative from the Southern Desk Company, had dreamed of establishing a scholarship fund at MOC for years. He has recently made that dream a reality by giving the College two paid insurance policies with instructions for the College to, "cash them in." He also gave MOC a 46-acre farm on Highway 581. Proceeds from the sale of the farm were added to the scholarship fund through a charitable gift annuity. Mr. Hinnant will receive monthly income during his lifetime and then the scholarship fund will provide an annual award of $10,000 or more.

Mr. and Mrs. Hinnant of Fremont, who were married for 64 years until her death in April of 2006, have passionately supported many organizations and causes over the years. They provided the pulpit furniture at Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Wayne County, in memory of Mr. Hinnant's parents, D. Frank, Sr. and Lillie Holland Hinnant. They have also given artwork to the church. During her lifetime, Mrs. Hinnant strongly supported her alma mater, Greensboro College, including funding the Anne Exum Hinnant Endowed Scholarship for students majoring in religious education at the College. In 1992, Greensboro College presented Mrs. Hinnant with the Distinguished Alumni Award. They also named a room honoring Mrs. Hinnant in the main building that was once the dormitory where she lived as a student.

The recent gifts to Mount Olive College are a reflection of the Hinnants' rich Christian heritage. Mr. Hinnant has therefore elected to give the scholarship in memory of Jesse Charles Rose (1831–1904), Anne's great-grandfather and Rufus Henry Holland, Sr. (1834–1906), his grandfather. Both Holland and Rose were early members and builders of Union Grove FWB Church.

The purpose of the endowed fund is to encourage and assist students studying to be ministers to equip themselves for effective service; to provide enriched and expanded learning experiences for ministers; and to relate these experiences to citizenship development, career preparation, and services to the College, the church, and humanity.

This endowed fund will provide scholarships for qualified recipients who must be recommended by the church in which they hold membership. In addition, recipients must demonstrate evidence of good character, a commitment to the Christian ministry, and to attaining an education. They must also be hard-working, self-reliant, self-motivated, and diligent, having academic promise.

Recipients must also enter into a written agreement to participate in both prescribed academic studies and in a defined extra-curricula program, including internships and service projects as may be determined by the College. The scholarship is renewable on a semester basis contingent upon the MOC student maintaining satisfactory academic progress, good citizenship, and fulfilling the terms of the agreement.

Mount Olive College recently donated over 100 cases of bottled water to disaster relief flood victims in Missouri. Pictured is Dr. Greg Day, campus minister, loading a trailer for Harvest Connection, a ministry of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. Harvest Connection specializes in early response and long-term recovery disaster relief and provides labor and relief kits for victims all over the U.S.

A COLLEGE DEGREE FORTY YEARS IN THE MAKING

Graduation from college is a major milestone, but for one recent MOC grad, it was an event that was four decades in the making.

Winnifred Averett Webster of Pitt County first enrolled at Mount Olive College in 1962. Her desire was to prepare herself for mission work. In 1963 she met her husband, Jimmy Webster, a student at MOC. They were married in August of 1964. Over the next few years, the couple had four children, leaving little time for educational pursuits.

Then in the early 1970s, Jimmy, who is a pastor at Sidney Original Free Will Baptist Church in Beaufort County, felt led to return to MOC. So the family pulled up stakes and moved to Beulaville. Jimmy began pastoring at Cabin OFWB Church and the couple returned to MOC together. Both graduated with associate degrees in 1974. Jimmy went on to pursue his bachelor's degree from Atlantic Christian College, now Barton. However, it took 40 years for Winnifred to make the leap.

Having moved to Pitt County and working at Bath Community Library in Bath, Winnifred had calculated the drive to MOC's New Bern location many times, but she just didn't think it would work. When the College opened its location in Washington, NC, she knew her opportunity had come full circle.

"I have always wanted to get my B.S. degree," Winnifred stated. "I also felt there was more I should be doing with my life and I had been praying about it.

photo by Photo Specialties

MOC coming to Washington was like an answer to my prayer that I could not afford to pass up," she continued.

So at the age of 62, Winnifred enrolled in the first Modular Religion Major program at Mount Olive College in Washington in 2006. She graduated two years later with her bachelor's degree in religion.

"Without the modular program, I would never have been able to earn my B.S. degree," Winnifred stated. "The first course of study in the module is Spiritual Formation and that has forever transformed my life. I have often thought that it would have been nice to have taken that journey at a younger age but perhaps it would not have affected me then as it has at this time in my life."

When asked what she plans to do with her degree she said, "I am already using it!" "I entered MOC in the '60s because I was called by God to be a missionary. Instead, I married a minister. I still feel I am called to serve in the ministry. Now, I am more secure in who I am and I feel more prepared to serve God."

Winnifred and Jimmy attend Moseley's Creek OFWB Church where Jimmy is pastor. In addition to the couple's grown children, they now have four grandchildren.

Since opening its doors in October of 2005, MOC-Washington has experienced explosive growth. The location is currently serving over 375 students attending full-time in one of several degree programs specifically designed for working adults. MOC-Washington offers bachelor degree programs in Business Administration, Criminal Justice-Criminology, Early Childhood Education, Health Care Management, and Religion. Students with previous college credit can attend classes one night per week and can finish the program of their choice in about two years.

"Our programs are built around our students' needs," says Dr. Evan Duff director of MOC-Washington. "We deliver quality programming that doesn't force students to choose between education and other responsibilities."

For more information about the degree programs offered at MOC-Washington, contact Dr. Duff by calling (252) 940-0146 or at <eduff@moc.edu>.

— COMING EVENTS —

MOC Society Gala (Society Members Only)—Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
September 5 at 6:30 P.M.

Blood Drive—Pope Wellness Center
September 23 at 10:00 A.M.

MOC Symphonic Band Fall Concert—Southern Bank Auditorium
September 30 at 6:30 P.M.

REMEBERING COASTAL MACEA

August 8–9, 2008

"Were You There?"

CORNERSTONE—CRAGMONT WOMAN'S CONFERENCE
JULY 27–AUGUST 1, 2008

by Brenda Batts

Again, God has proven His faithfulness to the women who attended Cornerstone Cragmont Woman's Conference. (Cornerstone is the newly chosen title for the July Conference.) No doubt there was lots of planning and preparation, along with prayer and meditation that God so graciously honored for this week of spiritual renewal.

Ladies began arriving at Cragmont from about three o'clock Sunday afternoon until late in the evening, so Monday morning, prior to our first devotional, we greeted one another and enjoyed a time of fellowship. What a joy to greet all the familiar faces, and welcome ten first time campers. Our ladies ranged in age from ninety-five down to forty-one, ten ladies over age eighty, and one who has not missed a conference since 1953. We were glad to have our bus driver, Dorman, and Buddy, a sixteen-year old grandson of one of Cragmont's faithful and longtime campers.

May Pittman, our director, and president of the Woman's Auxiliary Central Division in North Carolina, opened our meeting and welcomed everyone, and shared needful information to help us during our week at camp. She then introduced our daily devotional speaker, Carol Pittman, representing Daniels Chapel FWB Church in Wilson, North Carolina. Carol began the week with a wonderful message on "Time" focusing on a favorite passage from Ecclesiastes 3:1–8, and challenged us to use our time wisely while at Cragmont to draw closer to God, to recognize daily distractions, and to refocus our priorities to be better witnesses for Christ. Each daily devotional was so refreshing that early morning rising to begin our day in the Word of Gad was never a chore, but a delight.

Breakfast, as all other meals, was especially enjoyable as the Cragmont staff served delicious meals, after which we had a few moments to fellowship, make inquiries of church functions, of campers who weren't able to attend this year, new babies, marriages, fashion, you name it, the subject was covered! I must say, in all the happy chatter, praises for God's blessings and His provisions were never overlooked.

Our first morning Bible study began as May presided with preliminaries. Faye Adams read Psalm 121, and Kristie Bailey led us as we joyfully sang the "Cragmont Song." JoAnn Parrish so beautifully played the piano as we lifted our voices in worship to God. Kristie and JoAnn were faithful stewards of their talents and lime each day by preparing music, practicing with our Cornerstone Choir and all those who shared in special singing.

May introduced our guest speaker for the morning sessions, Donna Whitfield, representing Rooty Branch FWB Church in Mt. Olive, North Carolina. What a blessing we received each day as Donna was led to

challenge us in "Rediscovering Our Passion" in our service to God, to our families and our communities. We were encouraged to stay focused, to be committed, and, most important, to be fruitful. We were amazed how God spoke to Donna and Carol, miles and miles apart, to share devotions and His message for our hearts each day, and their messages flowed so beautifully together. The Holy Spirit was truly guiding them both with powerful, inspiring, and motivating messages for which we not only heard, but also responded to. I believe everyone was encouraged to accept the challenge and be ready for God to use them for His will and His purpose.

Our hearts were also blessed as Becky Jo Sumner led Bible studies for two evening sessions. Becky's emphasis was on "Lessons From Children" and how we learn from them in the text she presented chosen from books of the Old Testament. Becky Jo is a great Bible scholar with a knack for getting her students involved and helping them truly understand the text and application of God's Word.

Many ladies took advantage of the bus ride to Asheville to shop at Hamrick's Outlet Store, Asheville Mall, and Farmers Market. "A penny saved is a penny earned" and from what I understand, with all the sales going on that day, the shoppers saved a lot of money!

Wednesday afternoon, twenty-three ladies rode the bus to Charlotte to the Billy Graham Library. Everyone needs to put that on their list of places to visit on vacation. It is awesome!

Our trip included a buffet meal, great fellowship, not too much sleep, and lots of singing. We went a long way back to dig up songs from our days at youth camp. It seems "Just Plant A Watermelon On Top Of My Grave and Let the Juice Run Through" may not have been on the list of top ten songs fifty years ago, but we all had a good laugh hearing it. We passed around a notebook asking each lady to write what she most enjoyed about traveling. It was almost unanimous; reading, singing, listening to others converse, listening to music, eating (especially ice cream), enjoying God's creation, and hearing the wheels turn on the blacktop to lull you to sleep after boarding the bus to return to Cragmont.

Tuesday evening, after our time of worship in song, the Rev. John Williams enlightened the ladies with news of Cragmont, which included the importance of personal pledges, as well as individual church donations. He stressed the support needed to run Cragmont sufficiently and gave us a financial summary of yearly expenditures. Mr. Williams is using his talents to carve beautiful wooden bowls, which he offered for a silent auction and all proceeds donated, to Cragmont. We also received an offering for Cragmont of $1,865.

May continued our Tuesday evening service in a reverent time of sharing prayer requests, and our hearts were touched so deeply with the needs that were spoken. With our faith in God's Holy Word, we approached the throne of grace as we gathered in a circle around the sanctuary and held hands. Jean Ackiss prayed a prayer of faith that took us into the very presence of God as she praised and glorified His name and lifted our petitions to Him. I marveled at God's powerful love for us, and at that moment how He sheltered us with His restful peace.

"The Peace of God" was May's topic as she spoke to us on Wednesday. She read Scripture passages from Philippians 4:7, Ecclesiastes 3:8, and John 14:27 that reminds us of the source of true peace which is Jesus Christ. She presented each of us a dove to display and remind us of God's perfect peace.

Thursday was filled with lots of activity after our morning devotion, Bible study, and lunch. Ladies scurried around preparing for "Fun Time" during our afternoon session. We totally enjoyed every poem, skit, song, joke or reading. There were cheerleaders, a little girl, a southern lady, skits with lots of mountain gals and guys, a fashion show to end all fashion shows, and so much laughter it brought tears to ours eyes and our jaws ached. It's amazing how all the costumes came together on such short notice.

The Rev. Harold Jones, who has visited with us every year since 1982, brought us a wonderful message, "Rediscovering Our Passion for Missions." His calling has led him to many areas of the world, and he has seen the needs of countries and peoples with great material needs, but even greater spiritual needs. Mr. Jones presented Scripture from Acts 8:1 expressing Saul's great passion for destroying the Christians because he was without true knowledge of God's love and provisions. We know from Acts 9:3 of Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus, and how his compassion was even greater to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and lead sinners to the saving grace of God. Without funds the response to the needs in the mission field is very limited, and Mr. Jones encouraged us to move from our comfort zones and give liberally to help spread the Gospel to lost souls. We received an offering for missions for $1600.

Friday morning we gathered for our closing devotional. Carol presented an object lesson teaching us to keep our priorities in order, especially in our work for the Lord. We had our closing prayer thanking God for our great week of spiritual guidance, for the food we were about to receive, and for traveling mercies.

I can't tell all you the great blessings received from this year's Cornerstone Woman's Conference at Cragmont. I want to encourage all ladies to plan to come next year, and for those who attended to share with your Woman's Auxiliary and let them know how blessed we are to spend this time on the mountain at Cragmont. One sister summed it up by saying, "This is the best place to get a high!"

Woman's Auxiliary's Taskforce on Youth Ministry

by the Reverend John Hill, Taskforce Chairman

It is a well known fact that something has been going on in the youth ministry field of this denomination. However, it is certain that perhaps not all interested parties have been properly informed on the cause, purpose, and status of the work of this taskforce. This article is to begin the conversation on this very important subject.

In October of 2007, I received a call from the Woman's Auxiliary President, Mrs. Joan Little. She invited me, as chairman of a new commission of the OFWB Convention, to meet with the Woman's Auxiliary Executive Committee to discuss future changes to our denomination's youth program format. After several hours of meeting, this taskforce was created to begin a transforming journey for the face of youth ministry. This has proven, as expected, to be a long and arduous journey, but one to be met head on for the benefit of our children and youth.

The purpose of this taskforce is to (1) evaluate the current state of our youth ministry program and learn about all aspects of this important ministry, (2) to set and meet goals, as founded by the Woman's Auxiliary, (3) to develop (perhaps) a twelfth denominational ministry of our Convention. These tasks remain flexible to fit the desire of the denomination and its conferences.

The Executive Committee of the Woman's Auxiliary outlined four overarching goals for us to consider. Outlining in brief, the first goal is *to unify all denominational work with children and youth throughout all areas of our denomination (Local, Conference, and Convention).* The second goal is *to seek to encourage and provide holistic spiritual development for our children and youth.* A third goal is *to provide training and engaging opportunities to local youth workers (paid or volunteer) who are called to work in the field of youth ministry.* Lastly, this executive committee would like to see a possible **denominational ministry at the Convention level** to serve our churches. To fulfill these goals, the Woman's Auxiliary Executive Committee and I have suggested a three phase (three to five year) plan to help us attain these goals.

In regards to our efforts, the Woman's Auxiliary Convention met on Thursday, May 8 at Mount Olive College and voted to endorse these efforts. **Though they are approved at the denominational level your districts and conferences/association will continue to function as usual**. Your youth districts will continue to send district representatives, Bible Bowl competitors, attend the annual Youth Event in May 2009, and all other functions of your various districts as you have been doing. Though the denominational level may not (in the future) exist under the Woman's Auxiliary, that **does not** constitute any needed shift at your district/conference/association level. Those decisions remain with your district/association/conference. Rest assured, this shift will not in any way hinder or cause divisiveness within the work of your district.

The current work of the Taskforce has been on task with the "Phase One Completion Goals." However, we have not offered an official constitution and bylaws. Therefore, I cannot offer to you, at this point, a perfected document that is clearly outlined. We are working tirelessly on its completion and will have it in your hands as soon as humanly possible. However, there will likely be revisions needed at the end of Phase Three when we make the shift to Denominational Ministry status. Please be aware of the necessity of this colossal task.

This article is not intended to be an exhaustive and conclusive statement to the long conversation that must take place between this taskforce and the various members of our Original Free Will Baptist family. However, more information will be given at the **First Annual Youth Worker's Summit at Mount Olive College on Saturday, September 13, 2008 at 1 P.M.** Special presentations will be made on this and other important subjects facing student ministry in the Original Free Will Baptist Denomination. See the registration form for details!

This Summit gathering will become the center for our youth worker training. It is open to anyone who loves and serves children and youth in the name of Christ. I pray that you will consider attending. Resource bags and notebooks full of free products and resources will be available for those who properly register. Our goal is to guarantee you leave more encouraged and equipped to reach students in and around your church. Cost is $8 for those who register before August 30 and $10 for those who register after August 30. Senior Pastors are free! We look forward to seeing you at Mount Olive College on Saturday, September 13 at 1 P.M. in Raper Hall.

YOUTH LEADER'S SUMMIT
SPONSORED BY THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY
TASKFORCE ON YOUTH MINISTRY

Registration Form

A variety of workshops will be available to choose during three Workshop Sessions during the afternoon:

- Plugged in Teen Teaching, Ministering/Teaching Pre-Teens: Mr. Paul Learned/Standard Publishing
- Youth Ministry Administration & Outreach: Mrs. Angela Mattox, St. Mary's OFWB Church, New Bern
- Media In Youth Ministry: Mr. David Currie, Marsh Swamp OFWB Church, Sims
- Events and Resources for Youth Ministry: The Reverend John R. Harris, Westside OFWB Church, Kinston
- Volunteers and Fundraising in Youth Ministry: How?: The Reverend Bryant Hines, Rose of Sharon OFWB Church, Robersonville

A meal will be provided at the end of the day's sessions and closing service—6 P.M.

2008 Youth Convention T-shirts are available for purchase at the summit. Please pre-order and pre-pay for them on the designated area of this registration. Youth to Adult XL are $10 and Adult XXL/XXXL are $12.
The theme for this year's t-shirt is "Reflecting Him" based on Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."

Youth Leader's Summit at Mount Olive College on Saturday, September 13, 2008.

Registration at 1 P.M. with opening session beginning at 1:30 P.M. in Raper Hall Auditorium.
Three 50 minute workshops will follow with a closing session and meal at 6 P.M.

Church Name _____

Church Pastor _____ (attends free)

Youth Leaders/Youth Pastors/Others
(received by August 30)..... ____@ $8 = _____

Youth Leaders/Youth Pastors/Others
(received after August 30)..... ____@ $10 = _____

2008 Youth Convention T-shirts..... ____@ $10 = _____ (Youth to Adult XL)
____@ $12 = _____ (Adult XXL/XXXL)

Please list number and size of T-shirts wanted below:

Please list names of all people planning to attend summit notated above:

Please send this registration form, along with registration fee and any money for T-shirt orders to:
Victor Jones, 264 Kirby Thigpen Road, Pink Hill, NC 28572

CENTRAL DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

by Judy Moore

GET READY FOR THE FALL CONVENTION OF THE CENTRAL DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY. It will be held on September 27, 2008 at Free Union FWB Church.

Just for few minutes let's look back on our spring convention that was held at Daniel's Chapel Church on March 22, 2008. It was a beautiful spring day to be in God's house. The women of Daniel's Chapel had coffee and doughnuts ready for us before the meeting started. Our meeting was opened with greetings from our president, May Pittman.

Devotions were given by Sharon Stocks. Delegates, state and district officers, and ministers were recognized. Life membership recipients from each local auxiliary were recognized. The Central District Woman's Auxiliary Life membership recipient was Hattie Mae Everton of Daniel's Chapel. Marlboro, Little Creek, and King's Cross Roads churches were recognized for achieving A-1 Auxiliaries for the year. The youths were busy preparing for the production of "He Is" that was presented in April.

The convention voted to send $200 to the Foreign Mission Board to go toward their telethon that was held in March and to purchase a heavy-duty cookware set for the Children's Home. Representatives from the Mount Olive College, Retirement Home, Free Will Baptist Press, Children's Home, Home Missions, Cragmont, and Foreign Missions gave reports on what was being done and upcoming events of their ministry. Special music was provided by Joel Gay of Daniel's Chapel.

A very inspiring message was given by Nettie Woodall entitled, "Little Things Mean a Lot." She brought out in her message that God can take our talents, no matter how small the may seem, and use them to lift up his name like a SEED if we are planted in the Word of God. We will be able to grow in our Christian life; like a BUTTON holds thing together, God holds us together through the trials of our lives as we strive to work for Him; like a PENNY that is not worth a lot, God can takes our resources no matter how small, when given to Him by faith and make them grow; like a SMILE, that doesn't cost anything when you give one to someone it can touch and lead a heart to God. Don't wait for a smile, give a smile to someone. And finally comes LOVE; our love for others reflects the love of God in our lives.

What a wonderful day we had by being with God's children and what a blessing you missed by not being there. So come on and make plans to attend the Fall Convention of the Woman's Auxiliary on September 27, 2008 at Free Union Church.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY HAPPENINGS AT WILSON FIRST CHURCH

The ladies of the Woman's Auxiliary have been a busy group this spring and summer.

On May 20 they sponsored a Red Cross blood drive. A large number of ladies volunteered their time for this cause. They registered people, who came to donate, assisted them to the refreshment table for some homemade chicken salad sandwiches, cookies, and drinks, and were served by smiling WA members. We exceeded our goal of 25 pints for the American Red Cross!!

On May 27 the ladies of the WA and the church attended a very special event—a "tea party." Approximately 50 ladies attended dressed in their finest "tea party attire" including HATS!! Everyone looked so pretty and lots of pictures were taken. The church foyer was decorated with numerous, unique teapots of many different shapes, sizes, and colors. The program "Out Your Spout"(by Julia Bettencourt) comparing our character (teapot) with the traits Christ possessed was presented by Denise Vester, WA President. We had "tea party" foods, punch, played games and door prizes galore. And what a variety of "beautiful hats!" Fellowship was prominent and fun was had by all.

On July 12 the WA Prayer Brunch was held in the church activity building. Decorations were of a patriotic theme—red/white/blue and flags. Brenda Batts from Daniel's Chapel Church gave the program. She also entertained us with a skit dressed like a 3 1/2 year old little girl named Edith Ann (seen at top left). She was definitely an entertaining "little girl." Janie Nichols prepared the delicious food. It was made fresh in the activity building kitchen prior to the brunch. Approximately 40 ladies attended and a good time of fellowship was shared by all.

Top left: Brenda Batts, as "Edith Ann," visits our prayer brunch.

Bottom left: All smiles at the tea party!

Bottom right: Edna Cook and Edna Baker dressed in their tea party hats!

WOMEN'S WEEK AT CAMP VANDEMERE

Women's Week at Camp Vandemere got off to a wonderful start on Monday, June 2, 2008. Most all of the ladies that attended last year came back this year, and also there were three first-timers from Macedonia Church and three from Pilgrim Home Church. All of the newcomers expressed interest in returning next year.

There was a different speaker for Bible study each morning, and a different minister presented the message each night. On Monday night, Camp Manager, Wesley Taylor, showed a slide program from his trip to Jerusalem. Each lady also received a little memento from Jerusalem. Wesley stated that he would be glad to present this slide program to any church desiring to see it. Hearts were touched in a mighty way as he explained each slide.

Dinner on Tuesday night was a special treat of seafood provided by Betty Wood and deliciously prepared by our cook, Diane.

Thursday's adventure was a trip to Oriental to visit the Dunes Resort. There is no way to describe its beauty.

Pilgrim Home ladies purchased a new sofa for our sitting room this year, which was appreciated very much by the ladies during rest time.

We have a great time planning this week each year, and hope with God's help we will see all of our ladies return next June, along with more first-timers.

Stumpy Quinn and Judy Kennedy, Directors

CAMP VANDEMERE RECIEVES GIFT OF CONCRETE FOR SPORTS COURT

Many thanks go out to the S. T. Wooten Company for the gift of concrete for the sports court. During Women's Week at the Camp, Kenny Hill came down to bring the nice plaque to be placed on the fence that surrounds the sports court. Shown in the picture when the plaque was attached to the fence are Board Members Stumpy Quinn, the Rev. Owen Arthur, and Kenny Hill.

2008 SINGING BY THE RIVER
12th Annual
CAMP VANDEMERE
October 17th & 18th

Friday beginning at 7:00 PM - YOUTH OUTREACH

*** FEATURING ***

Gone Fishing & Living Water

Saturday beginning at 10:00 AM we will continue the traditional

Southern Gospel and Blue Grass

*** FEATURING ***

Willing Heart

Beaverdam Boys

Second Edition

Four In Christ

On sale Friday and Saturday...

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs & Nachos with all the fixings.

Promotional Items - T-Shirts, Shorts, Caps, Coats, Blankets, Hats & Special Orders

10'X10' Exhibit spaces are available to OFWB Ministries. Other groups may rent for $25.

For more information contact Reverend Ashley Summerlin cks0151@hotmail.com

Cell (252)560-8995 *** Home (919)778-4744

CAMP VANDEMERE'S "SINGING BY THE RIVER" ADS FOR 2008

EVENT DATES: OCTOBER 17 AND 18, 2008

Company Name_____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone # (_____)_____ Fax # _____

AD COPY: If this is a new ad, please attach information as you would like it to appear in the ad book: pictures, symbols, etc. If you would like for your ad to be the same as last year, please notate below. If previous ad material is not suitable to print, someone will contact you for additional information. Any change to previous ad needs to be notated below.

Ad Cost:

Black & White: ¼ page or business card—$25.00, ½ page—$50.00, Full page—$100.00 (Circle size requested)

Color: ¼ page or business card—$37.50, ½ page—$75.00, Full page—$150.00 (Circle size requested)

_____

_____

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_____

_____

Amount Paid/Due $_____

Ad Sold By: _____ Phone: _____

Copies of ad and monies must be submitted to Damon Kennedy **no later than September 20, 2008** to allow time to review and proofread book before sending to print.

Damon Kennedy
1571 Red Hill Road
Mount Olive, NC 28365
(919) 658-3253 (Home)
(910) 296-7100 (Cell)
fishforhim@aol.com (e-mail)

Thank you for your support of Camp Vandemere and its ministry.

Camp Vandemere Board of Directors

65TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

by Pebbles Joyce

Piedmont Conference moderator, the Rev. David Atkins and his wife, Janice

On Saturday July 26, 2008, the Piedmont Conference was held at Wayside Tabernacle in Thomasville, NC from 9 A.M.–1 P.M. The executive board meeting and ordaining council meeting was held. Roll was called, the various reports were read, and business was discussed. Following this business meeting, a sermon was preached by Piedmont Conference moderator, the Rev. David Atkins who is the pastor of Christ Freewill Baptist Church.

The Scripture read came from 1 Corinthians 9:27: "But I keep under my body and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

The topic of the sermon was moral values, integrity, and honesty. What has happened to today's church? We are living in the last days. The church today is compared to the Laodicean church in Revelation 3. The majority of the world today is blinded by the lust of the flesh and the Devil. People think they are rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing, not even God. Loose living has become acceptable by the world. Ungodly actions, ungodly language, rebellious children, indecent clothing, and disrespect of God's property are common in today's society. The godly morals and integrity of society have been thrown out the window by the wayside. This is WRONG and NOT pleasing to God. God's people need to act godly and not like the world. Pastors, deacons, and church members are viewed under a microscope by the world. God's people need to set a godly example for others and be a lighthouse to lead others to Christ.

This was a message from God we needed. It reminded God's people that they ought to act godly, have decent morals, and integrity. We are in the world but not of the world. Sometimes we need a strong reminder to keep us on the right path that leads to God. Thank God for that strong spiritual message that He sent us. The Holy Spirit was moving and in our midst at the Piedmont Conference.

Following the sermon, lunch was served in Wayside's fellowship hall. Delicious chicken, ham, vegetables, and dessert was enjoyed by all who attended. It is wonderful to spend time in fellowship with God's people.

PIEDMONT YOUTH RALLY

by Pebbles Joyce

On Friday July 25, 2008, the Youth Rally was held at Wayside Tabernacle in Thomasville, NC from 7–9 P.M. Youth groups represented from four churches; each performed a skit about God.

Friendly Chapel youth put on a puppet show about how God can rescue you. No matter how big of a mess you are in, God can come on the scene and rescue you. All things are possible with God. Amazing Grace youth performed a skit on how only God can help "control our tongues." Tongues should be used for praising God and winning souls, not for gossip or anything that can do harm to others. Christ FWB Church youth performed a skit on body parts. The eye, foot, ear, nose, brain, mouth, and heart and how they can all work together to be doers, listeners, workers, and soul winners for God. Wayside Tabernacle youth performed a comedy skit for God and sang several beautiful songs for the Lord. God has given these young people beautiful singing voices and the desire to sing and praise God.

All of the youth and churches represented did a wonderful work for the Lord. Each skit was different and had a special message for us all. We should be saved, focus on God, pray, praise, and put all of our trust in God to bring us through this life into eternal life. Youth rallies give youth a special night out with other youth who show their love and willingness to work for God. God will bless all the youth that participated in these soul-winning skits for God. Our prayer is that more youth will want to seek the face of God and not seek out all the temptations that the world has to offer.

Following these performances, pizza was served. The youth had the opportunity to fellowship with other youth that shared a love and spirit of God. It is a joy to spend time with our youth and all the people that love the Lord.

The skit performers pictured are: Friendly Chapel youth, Amazing Grace youth, Wayside Tabernacle youth, and Christ Freewill Baptist youth.

CHRIST FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
THE OUTREACH BROADCAST

by Pebbles Joyce

Every Saturday at 9:30 A.M. Christ Freewill Baptist Church of Stokesdale, NC and the Rev. David Atkins airs "The Outreach Broadcast" on the radio at a local radio station in Mayodan, NC on 1420 WMYN AM and 1490 WLOE AM. It is a recording of the sermons that Mr. Atkins preaches on Sundays. With the exception of the first Saturday of each month, it is aired live. Christ Freewill Baptist Church believes that the radio broadcast is a way to reach out to people who are unchurched, elderly, or shut in. The church wants to reach out and let everybody know about God and how to be saved.

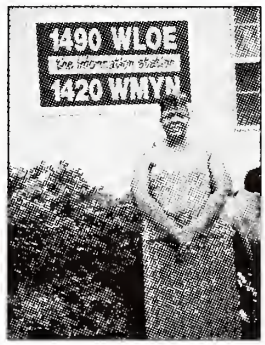
Mr. Atkins and his wife, Janice, and some church members meet at the radio station. Our singers and musicians, the Rev. Cathy Vernon, Frankie Vernon, Eleanor Patterson, Mrs. Jennie Vernon, Darryl Wagnor, and Tonya Wagnor usually attend the broadcast and provide live music. Our pastor usually preaches, with the exception of Saturday July 5, when he asked the Rev. Cathy Vernon, who is a member of the church, to preach.

Ms. Vernon preached about the prodigal son, from Luke 15:11–22. A man had two sons. The younger one asked his father to give him his portion of goods now. The father gave him the goods. The son went to a far country and wasted his inheritance on riotous living. He spent it all and he began to need and want. Then he asked to let him feed the swine and he had to eat what the swine ate. He went back to his father and said, "I have sinned and am not worthy to be called your son. Make me a hired servant." Then the father gave him the best robe, shoes on his feet, a ring on his hand, and food to eat.

Sometimes people are just like the prodigal son. They squander away their spiritual inheritance. Then they become sad and wonder what happened. They wonder why they are spiritually hungry. They have left their spiritual Father and forgot all about God, the church, and God's Word. The Devil makes them think that seeking worldly possessions brings happiness. In reality, worldly things mean nothing. The things of this world won't last but God's love and spiritual things are forever lasting.

So many times people want what the world has to offer, right now. They are not considering their future eternity. As long as we are saved, love God, serve God, are obedient to God, have no condemnation, and give God all the praise for our life we will be happy. Those that have left the Father's house can come back, sorrowfully repent and God will forgive. God loves us. God wants us to love Him more than anything else.

Our prayer is that God will speak to the hearts and lives of those that have left the Father's house. That they will come to repentance and be certain where they will spend eternity.



Top right: Pictured at the local radio station, 1490 WLOE/1420 WMYN, are (left to right): Janice Atkins, the Rev. David Atkins, Frankie Vernon, the Rev. Cathy Vernon, and Daryl Wagoner.

Top left: Pictured outside of the Mayodan, NC radio station is operator DJ Michele.

Brother Randy Dean gave his heart to the Lord at the young age of 12, during Vacation Bible School, while attending the First Baptist Church in Ashford, Alabama.

He later moved his membership to Eastside FWB Church in Dothan, Alabama. While attending Eastside, he was called to serve on the Deacon Board, September 5, 2004.

While still attending Eastside Church, during the Fall Revival, on November 12, 2006, Randy accepted the call into the Ministry. A while later Brother Randy moved his membership to Jakin OFWB Church in Jakin, Georgia.

Brother Randy was licensed to preach by Jakin Original Free Will Baptist Church in 2007.

ORDINATION SERVICE

On June 8, 2008 during the morning worship service, at Jakin OFWB Church, Brother Randy was ordained to preach the Gospel. The ordination service began with Pastor Wayne Sheffield presenting "The Call to Ministry." Brother Charlie Burch, deacon at Live Oak OFWB Church, read Ezekiel 33:1–9. Brother David Still, deacon at Zion OFWB Church, read 1 Timothy 4. Mr. Wayne Sheffield, the chairman of the Ordaining Council, questioned the candidate. A prayer of ordination and laying on of hands by the ordaining council and deacons was performed. The Ordaining Council consisted of Mr. Sheffield, chairman, Mr. Still, and Mr. Burch.

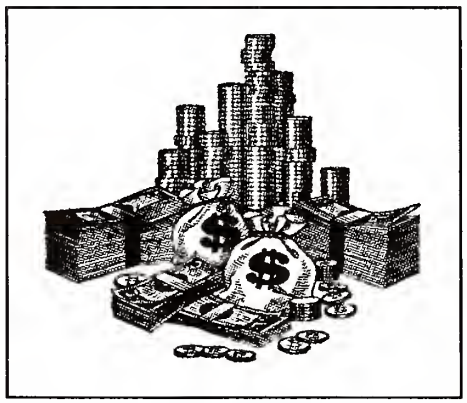
Sister Pam Dean, wife of Brother Dean, was given words of encouragement for a pastor's wife by Shirley Sheffield, wife of Mr. Sheffield. The "Charge" was presented to Brother Dean by Mr. Sheffield. Wayne Carr presented a Bible to the Rev. Randy Dean. As he made the presentation, Brother Carr stated, "The Scripture is your most valuable tool, you are to always be seeking to save the lost." In his statement to the congregation and the Ordaining Council, Mr. Dean said that he considers it a privilege to preach the gospel and he desires the prayers of everyone as he begins the ministry God has called him in to. Brother Josh Dean, son of the Dean's, sang "Shepherd's Call." The prayer of benediction was given and we were invited to share in a time of enjoying good food and great fellowship with others.

THE PERFECT STORM

by Donald Fader

What a difference a year makes. Over the past 12 months the American public has become increasingly anxious about the economy. When you really think about it it's not so much that we are worried about the economy, rather we are worried about how it effects us personally. It is sort of like the old saying, "If your neighbor loses his job, it's a recession. If you lose your job, it's a depression."

Last year we were reading about the mortgage meltdown and how it affected places like Florida, Nevada, and California. These were places that were far from home, and, with the exception of some bubble areas in the coastal and mountain areas, real estate values in North Carolina remained virtually unscathed. We are beginning to learn that real estate values are only part of the financial equation that shapes our lives. We are now facing problems like job insecurity, health care costs, rising prices, falling stocks, and turbulence in the financial sector.



Financial Planning: A Biblical Perspective

Most people are unprepared to weather a short term problem much less a prolonged economic downturn. The first line of defense for a job loss is to fall back on your savings. The challenge here is that most people have no savings. This is further compounded by consumer debt. Credit card balances, car loans, and personal loans have left many Americans one paycheck away from economic disaster.

What can you do? As surprising as this may seem, most people will choose to do nothing while hoping and wishing that somehow they will escape. Hoping and wishing will never make it so! The reason so many people are unprepared is that most Americans are financially illiterate. It's not that we are stupid or ignorant, we have just chosen to ignore what is an important facet of our everyday lives.

We are good at our jobs and we know all kinds of things about history, politics, current events, sports and many other subjects. However, you would be shocked at how many people do not know how to balance a checkbook, determine adequate retirement savings, or prepare a family budget. Jesus was incredulous with the Pharisees who were the most learned men of their time. They knew more about the Scriptures and religion than anyone in Israel. But these men, who should have recognized and welcomed the Savior, did everything they could to oppose him prompting Him to say to them in Luke 12:56, *"ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?"*

It is the same with you and I. We know a lot about some things but are unaware about this very important subject that touches every part of our lives. Why do you suppose Jesus talked so much about finances? Perhaps it was because the more we know about money the wiser we are using this important resource to God's glory.

Christians should always be prepared for whatever the future holds. God has given us the ability to plan, and, while our faith sustains us, we are responsible for the everyday decisions that impact our lives. Jesus accepted an invitation to eat in the home of a Chief Pharisee and while there posed this question in Luke 14:28, *"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?"* We have an obligation to count the cost and determine the impact that everyday spending decisions create in our lives.

In the next few months we will talk about the implications of our decisions and choices and the important role that financial literacy plays in our lives. In the meantime spend some time at your local library or on the internet learning more about this subject. A great resource is found on the internet at <www.federalreserveeducation.org>.

It is time for you to take charge of your financial future and in the months ahead we hope to inspire you to meet that challenge and take charge of our financial future.

CAMPMEETING 2008

HORTON ROAD ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH
1315 HORTON ROAD • DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27704
PASTOR: REV. HARRY G. BROWN • (919) 479-5060

"Celebrating 27 Years"

MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND AND COME EARLY
CAMPMEETING AND HOMECOMING
OCTOBER 3–5, 2008

"Featuring Special FWB Authors"

Dr. Robert Picirilli , Rev. Leroy Forlines , and Chalk Artist, Rev. Mike Ledbetter

Schedule

Friday: 7 P.M.

1st speaker: Rev. Clayton Burch (Jacksonville, NC)
2nd speaker: Rev. Mike Ledbetter, Chalk Artist (Swansboro, NC)

Saturday: 9 A.M.

1st speaker: Rev. Dale Burden (Virginia Beach, VA)
2nd speaker: Rev. Karl Sexton (Virginia Beach, VA)
3rd speaker: Dr. Robert Picirilli (Nashville, TN)
Lunch prepared by Ole NC Bar-B-Q
4th speaker: Rev. Leroy Forlines (Nashville, TN)
5th speaker: Evangelist Bobby Jackson (Greenville, NC)

Sunday: 9 A.M.

1st speaker: Rev. Virgel Nolen (Durham, NC)
2nd speaker: Rev. Leroy Forlines (Nashville, TN)
3rd speaker: Dr. Robert Picirilli (Nashville, TN)
Lunch prepared by ladies/men of the church

Special Music by Horton Road OFWB Church Choir
and the "Southland Harmony" quartet

WE'VE BEEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE
FOR 27 YEARS
1981–2008

Homecoming

Saints Delight

Original Free Will Baptist Church

Ormondsville Road, Ayden, NC (off Hwy. 903)

Sunday, September 28, 2008
Service will begin promptly at 10:45 A.M.

Come and join us for a special service by the Reverend James R. Owens, great music, wonderful fellowship, and good home country cooking!

We'll also have a memorial remembrance for our members that we sadly lost this past year that will forever remain in our hearts: W. D. Jarman, Jack Avery, and Arthur Lee Bowen.

For more information or directions, contact Trish at (252) 341-0706.

Eastern District

Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Saturday, September 20, 2008
Macedonia FWB Church, Ernul, NC

Registration: 9:30 A.M. — Starts: 9:50 A.M.

Theme: "Unconditional Surrender"

The Reverend Neal Cox, Guest Speaker

Churches & Ministry Positions Available

Dr. Jerry English is available for supply pastoral work. He may be reached at (252) 638-5038 or (252) 349-1986.

Free Will Baptist Press, Ayden, NC is seeking a full-time proofreader/editorial assistant. Good proficiency in grammar/punctuation and biblical knowledge required. Inquiries can be made to the editor by e-mail at <editor@fwbpress.com> or by phone at (800) 849-3927 ext. 227.

Attention Pastors and Patrons

A View From the Pew: A Tribute to Pastors,

was written to express appreciation and respect to pastors that the author has known during 65 years as a member of the Free Will Baptist faith.

This book is in recognition of the faith, teaching, and preaching of our pastors. It is not about any specific pastors.

Originally released in hardcover, the book is now available in paperback.

Copies are available, for a limited time, at the Free Will Baptist Press, Ayden, NC (or one of its branch stores in Kinston and New Bern), for half-price **($6)**.

All funds received from these books will go toward "The Press to $125,000" Capital Campaign for the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc.

Display/Advertising Rates

b/w—1/8 page vrt./hrz. • $20
b/w—1/4 page vrt./hrz. • $30
b/w—1/2 page vrt./hrz. • $40
b/w—3/4 page vrt./hrz. • $50
b/w—Full page • $60
b/w—back cover • $120
color—back cover • $150

Churches & Ministry Positions • $8
(maximum of 4 lines)

Personal Information Changes • No Charge
(notice of phone, mailing address, and e-mail address changes)

These rates are for first-time runs. Additional consecutive runs are half-price (of equal or lesser size).

The printing of ads is contingent on the availability of space. We reserve the right to condense space as necessary. You will be charged only for the actual size used.

These advertising rates are for individuals, churches, and auxiliary organizations. These charges apply to any announcements, coming event listings, invitations, and registration forms. If you have any questions, contact the editor by e-mail at <editor@fwbpress.com> or by phone at (800) 849-3927 ext. 227.
There is no charge for article submissions.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) **When the 5th falls on a weekend, material is due on the Friday before.** You may submit items by any of the following methods:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>,
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
  PO Box 159
  Ayden, NC 28513.

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Woman's Auxiliary Taskforce on Youth Ministry

This taskforce has been appointed by the Executive Committee of the Woman's Auxiliary Convention in an effort to aspire greater ministry to all children and youth.

CONNECTING, EDUCATING, & TRANSFORMING LIVES FOR JESUS CHRIST

You are cordially invited to join us for the **1st Annual Youth Leader's Summit** to be held on Saturday, September 13, 2008 from 1 P.M. until 6 P.M.
The Summit will be held in Raper Hall on the campus of Mount Olive College.

Please See Our Ad and Article Inside!

Please complete the registration form found inside and submit, along with registration fee, as soon as possible to:

Victor Jones, 264 Kirby Thigpen Road, Pink Hill, NC 28572.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

October 2008

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THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST

MONTHLY PLANNER

October 2008

MINISTER'S PROGRAM MONTH

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 MOC Recital Series—Ciompi Quartet, 7:30 P.M.	8	9	10	11
12 **CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY**	13 **COLUMBUS DAY**	14	15	16 **BOSS'S DAY**	17	18
19 **SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY**	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOTE:

Color(s) for the season: The basic color is green, which symbolizes growth in Christ. Red may be used on civic holidays.

COMING SOON:

November 11: Visitation Day @ MOC
November 12: MOC Recital Series—Hamann Sisters, 7:30 P.M.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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POWER VERSE

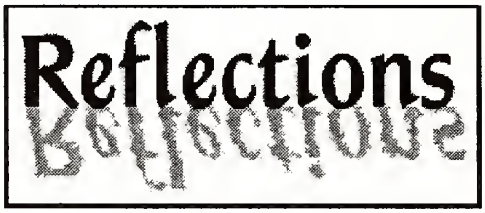
He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful (1 Corinthians 1:8–9).

Are We Losing the Gold Mine?

by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer

For many in the age bracket that I am now find myself, there are fond memories of yesteryear that include all aspects of life then as compared to now. The pace of life sometimes leaves us bewildered and wondering if we are losing touch with our changing society and world. Change and progress, of course, is a part of life, or else we become stalemated and non-productive.

To be more specific, it is the changes that are taking place in some areas of Christian worship and Christian teaching and training that bothers me the most. Modern techniques are fine in seeking to carry out the Great Commission: "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:..." (Matthew 28:19–20).



The internet, for example, now serves as a means of presenting the gospel message and biblical teaching of the Word. Our hats are off to the work of our own denominational Sunday School Ministry in its successful efforts in offering seminars, etc., to our church leaders and teachers and offering various tools of teaching. These efforts, as well as the printing and publication of sound literature must continue.

In spite of concerted efforts, however, our total Sunday school enrollment has declined during the past couple of decades. At one time, as we have alluded to in past "Reflections," the Sunday school was referred to as "the gold mine of the church," simply because many of those who came into the church came through the Sunday school. This is not to say that we have no successful Sunday schools, but overall attendance is on the decline. This decline has been of great concern for the ministry of The Free Will Baptist Press in its struggle to supply Sunday school literature. From 1983 through 2007, for example, there was a loss of over 7,500 SS members. From 2001 through 2007, there was a decline of over 3400. Our 2004 Yearbook shows Sunday school enrollment at 15,536, with an average attendance of 11,834. The 2007 yearbook shows enrollment of 14,909, with an average attendance of 11,245. (Some churches, of course, did not report.) These figures make us wonder: if the Sunday School was at one time the "Gold Mine of the Church," what has replaced it? Is the Word of God being taught as is once was in what I consider to have been the "good old days." The moral decline in our society gives evidence that something is missing. I think we know what it is. Can we correct it?

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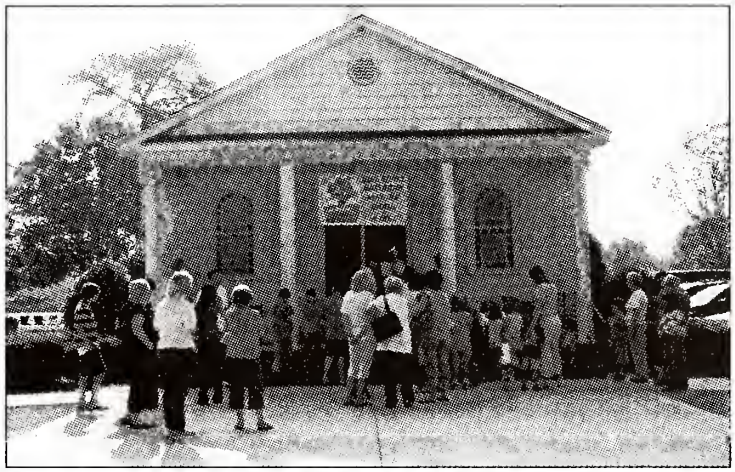
Vacation Bible School

SMITH'S NEW HOME VBS



Smith's New Home Church held its one-day Vacation Bible School on Saturday, May 31. Our theme this year was "God's Big Backyard." Mrs. Happy Taylor and Mrs. Betty Bizzard directed. All 64 attendees had a wonderful time learning about God's wonderful world all around us, as well as having fun with crafts and music and enjoying a lunch time cook-out. The commencement program was held on Sunday, June 1 during the worship service.

POWHATAN CHURCH VBS

Vacation Bible School was held the week of June 16–20 with the theme of "Power Lab." Attendance ranged from about 72 to 83 each night. Jeanette Canady did a great job of planning and preparing for the week of fun and learning.

Pictured is Brodie Cormack, great-grandson of our oldest member, enjoying one of the bubble experiments for the pre-schoolers at VBS. The "scientist" helping him is Roberta Widhalm, 2007 graduate of MOC.

NEW SANDY HILL CHURCH VBS

On Saturday, June 28, we had a one-day Bible School. The theme was "God's Big Backyard." We had classes for preschool on up through senior citizens. The attendance for the day was more than 40. We had a great day learning about servanthood.

ROCK SPRINGS CHURCH VBS

Our Bible School competed with several other churches having Bible School in the same week. We were thrilled that we averaged 55 students and teachers. Our theme was "God's Big Backyard." Each night we studied how different folks in the Bible served God by serving others and we related their service to what we can do to serve others. As a result, our project was to collect money to send to the Children's Home in Middlesex. We had a contest between the girls and the boys that resulted in a 14-cent difference between the two groups. The total sent to the Children's Home from our Bible School was $231. We also had an adult class this year at Bible school that doubled in size from the first night to the end of the week.

One of the craft projects completed by the Adult class was making handmade cards. This has lead to a new card ministry at our church. Our group's informal name is Stampin' for Jesus. Our first night of card making resulted in 12 folks making cards. The ages ranged from 10 years old and up. We made a total of 45 cards and mailed 17 to folks in the community that night. Our ministry is not limited to our church members, but is also focused on letting people in our community know that we are remembering them through our prayers.

SMYRNA CHURCH VBS

Pictured is Staff Sergeant. Roy M. Tart, Jr. assisting Tyler Temple with a classroom project dealing with "Serving our Friends and Community" at Smyrna Church in the Meadow community on June 19.

The theme for the week-long Vacation Bible School entitled "God's Big Backyard" featured a servant each evening in 'serving Jesus,' 'serving family,' 'serving friends,' and 'serving the community.'

School nurse Beth Hockaday visited each classroom on Monday sharing her duties to school children as she let children hear their own heartbeats to take blood pressures of adults. Church pastor, Richard

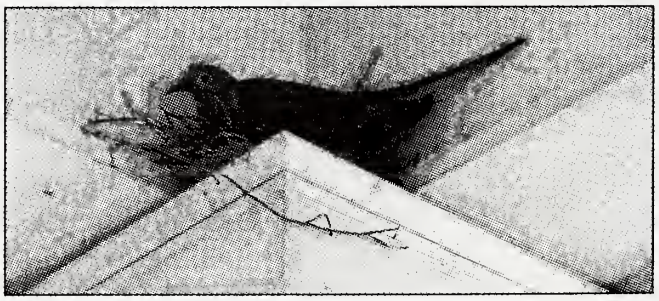
Whitman, was the Tuesday night servant talking to students about how to be servants like Jesus. Sergeant Gary Whitman of the Benson Police Department, who is in charge of it s D.A.R.E. program, was Wednesday night's servant proving to the students how the police is one of our best "friends" sharing printed materials for all ages.

Air Force Staff Sergeant Roy Tart was the servant on Thursday night sharing his experience in serving our country in the military pointing out the importance of how God can be with us anywhere at any time and knowing God and being able to pray to Him in tough situations means to him.

The C & H Puppets, under the direction of Carolyn Tew, shared a skit each evening dealing with the day's topic.

The average attendance of 64 attendees shared their every meal together, classroom and craft sessions from toddlers through adults.

The congregation at Smyrna (Cape Fear Conference) located in the Meadow Community has had a special visitor for at least four weeks, including the week of Vacation Bible School held on June 16–20. This 'setting' dove, nesting at the entrance of the church, has kept watch over those who have entered the front door every service.



CHRIST CHURCH VBS
"DARE TO BE A DANIEL"

On Saturday June 14, 2008, Christ Freewill Baptist Church of Stokesdale, NC held its annual Vacation Bible School from 9 A.M.–1 P.M. We had 26 from our church to attend and 16 visitors for a total of 42. Praise God for sending all those children to our Bible school! We are thankful for those adults who came out to teach, assist, and encourage God's children.

The theme this year was "Dare to be a Daniel." Children learned about Daniel, the faithful servant of God. Daniel kneeled, prayed, and gave thanks to God three times a day. Daniel loved and served God continually. When Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, the angel of the Lord shut the lions' mouths and kept Daniel safe and unharmed. God's power is strong enough to do absolutely anything. We need to be faithful and truly believe that God can do what nobody else can do. With our faith in God, all things are possible. God can deliver us from any stronghold that the Devil sends our way. God is more than powerful than the Devil and can always beat him. We should never forget that God loves us and truly believe that God can and will deliver us.

Good times and loving fellowship was had by all who attended. Pizza and dessert was served for lunch following our morning Bible school. There were a large variety of crafts that the children were able to make and learn by doing. We pray that those children were blessed with everlasting memories of God's love, God's power, and what God can and will do for us. Thank you Lord for each child's desire to seek you!

TEE'S CHAPEL CHURCH VBS

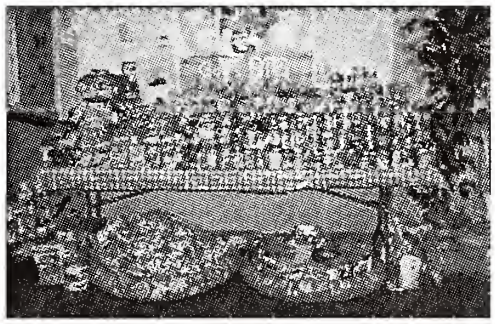
Our theme was "God's Big Back Yard: Where Kids Have a Blast Serving God." Our Vacation Bible School ran from July 26–31.

We averaged about 180 children and adults each night of Bible School. We had a wonderful week of fun and fellowship as the children learned to serve.

Each night we had someone from our community come and speak to the children: Danny Johnson along with his K-9 partner from the Johnston County Sheriff's K-9 unit; Corey McLamb with the Brogden Volunteer Fire Department; Michelle Dove with the Princeton Rescue Squad; Sergeant First Class Thomas Holcomb with the North Carolina National Guard Unit; and Angie Jacobs, Principal of Micro-Pine Level Elementary School. The children enjoyed our guest speakers as they talked about how they serve our community. We also had a special friend, Cooper the Dog, visit us each night. The children really enjoyed Cooper. Each night Cooper would pass out goodies to all the children who had completed their daily service projects.

I am so proud of all the children; we had a service project for the week of Bible School called "Children Helping Children." The children competed by bringing non-perishable items each night to Bible School. This was a huge success; we collected over 1,200 items! These items were taken to the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Middlesex. We had a wonderful trip to the Children's Home. It was a very inspirational trip for all of us. A big thanks to the two young gentlemen for helping us unload our boxes. Along with Ms. Cynthia, these two gentlemen showed us around the campus. They were very excited to have us as guests. We enjoyed our short visit and we were very honored to have them share the information and history of the Children's Home with us.

On behalf of Tee's Chapel Church, I would like to honor our youth's hard work and dedication during our Vacation Bible School. May God bless you.



CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY
OCTOBER 12, 2008

The Minister's Program would like to remind all churches that October 12, 2008 has been designated by the Convention as Clergy Appreciation Day.

Why do we set aside a day for this purpose? While each of us appreciates our pastor, this day gives you an excuse to do something special for him. Being a pastor is one of the loneliest jobs in the world. While he is surrounded by people all the time, it is difficult to confide in a member. After all, the pastor is the one who hears about everyone else's problems and we seldom consider that he has problems of his own.

He works hard during the year preparing sermons, visiting the sick, and counseling the troubled and he stands with you in times of sorrow and tragedy, as well as those moments of joy that all families experience.

This is a day that we focus on him. You can help make it a special day in your own special way. Even if the church does not plan anything special, you can honor him in many different ways.

The Bible reminds us in Galatians 6:10: "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

We encourage each church member to do something on this day to show that you care.

OCTOBER IS MINISTER'S PROGRAM MONTH

October has been designated as Minister's Program Month by the Convention of Free Will Baptists during the 2008 session. We would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve the ministers and the local churches over the past year. It is our hope that you will remember this program in your prayers and that you will also be generous in your giving to support the work that we do on behalf of all the ministers in the Convention.

Gifts received during Minister's Program Month are critical to the overall success of this program. If your church has met its challenge this year, we say thank you! If you are receiving a special offering for the Minister's Program this month, we encourage you. If your church does not support the work of the Minister's Program, we ask why?

Mission Statement

It is the purpose of The Free Will Baptist Minister's Program to serve the churches and ministers of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. It is our assertion that the minister can best meet the spiritual requirements of a congregation if he is unencumbered by the burden of financial insecurity. To this end we provide administrative services, information resources, and educational opportunities. These are designed to help the minister and the local church plan together a program of compensation and benefits designed to meet the minister's present and future financial needs.

What does the Minister's Program do? This program was brought into existence to help prepare the minister for the financial eventualities of life. To do this, we try to help educate the church and the minister about the unique needs of the pastorate. Our goal is not to provide for the minister, that is the church's responsibility, but to help the church and the minister plan together so that at all stages of life the minister can serve without the burden of financial concerns holding him back.

The Minister's Program is an extension of the local church administering programs that the church could not provide on its own. We stand ready to work with the minister and the church to help them accomplish the goal of working together in a lifetime of financial planning. Ministers step out in faith to answer God's call. That faith is based on the belief that God will prepare them, provide for them, and lead the church to properly support them.

We believe that God channels His provisions through the church and it is required of them to be good stewards as it relates to their care of the pastor. This does not apply exclusively to matters of compensation, but also to support, appreciation, and willingness on the part of the church to be lead. Please consider areas that the Minister's Program can work with you to help build a strong working relationship with your pastor.

Does your minister have a plan for retirement? Churches should help their pastor prepare for the future by funding his retirement plan today. Contact the Minister's Program for any help you may need as you assist your pastor so that he can retire with the dignity and security that his calling deserves. Additionally, the Minister's Program provides:

- A $150 gift to all ministers age 65 and older each Christmas.
- Tax planning help for ministers.
- Administrative costs associated with the Minister's Widows Fund and the Surviving Widows Fund.
- Hardship Grants for ministers in need.

Perhaps one reason that some ministers are hesitant to discuss the Minister's Program in the local church is because they may be perceived as being self-serving. The Minister's Program is for all the ministers who are presently serving and for those who have served so well.

If your church supports the program, please accept our thanks on behalf of our ministers. If your church does not support the program, please reconsider. Please tell us what we need to do to earn the trust and confidence necessary to receive your support. The only operating income we receive depends on the generosity of God's people, you.

The scope of this program is limited only by the level of support we receive from you, the local church. Your gift to us is a sacred trust and we make every effort to provide the greatest benefit to our ministers with a minimum outlay for administrative costs.

We hope that you appreciate this fact and that you will continue to support this program with your prayers and gifts. Will you be a part of this ministry? The challenges we present to the church have not increased in twelve years. We ask that you consider the following challenge:

For churches that have memberships totaling:

less than 100	$150
100–149	$300
150–199	$400
Over 200	$500

For additional information or questions, please write or call:

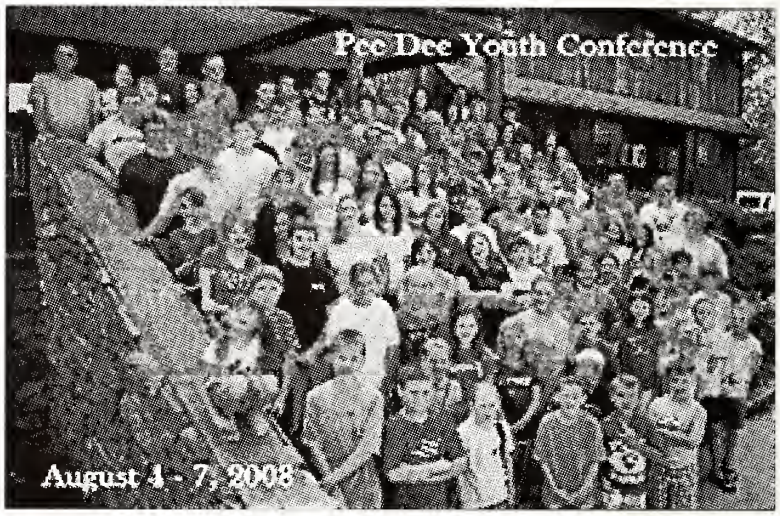
Donald Fader
Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 523-5800

The Rev. Sherman Dilley, Chairman
Randall Smith, Vice-Chairman
The Rev. Phillip Boykin
The Rev. Richard Glosson
The Rev. Ricky Warren

Cragmont Assembly

Make your plans now to come to Cragmont for skiing. Many dates are still open. Call (877) 669-7677 to book your group now.

Christmas at Cragmont will be December 4–7. Make your plans to attend. You may call Cragmont at (877) 669-7677 for further details.



AVAILABLE DATES

September 4–10	23 main rooms, motel, dorms
September 11–14	motel, dorm
September 15–17	everything
September 18–21	north main, Hollifield House, dorm
September 22–25	everything
September 26–28	one dorm, Hollifield House
September 29–October 1	everything
October 2–5	one dorm
October 6–8	everything
October 13–15	main, 9 lodge rooms, 7 motel, dorms, Hollifield House
October 22–22	motel, dorms, Hollifield House
October 27–29	6 lodge rooms, motel, dorms, Hollifield House
November 3–5	everything
November 6–9	dorms, Hollifield House
November 10–12	everything
November 13–16	dorms, Hollifield House
November 17–19	everything
November 20–23	dorms, Hollifield House
November 24–26	everything
November 27–30	call for availability
December 6–10	everything
December 11–14	dorms
December 15–31	everything

CRAGMONT ASSEMBLY
1233 North Fork Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
Phone: (877) 669-7677
e-mail: Cragmont@charter.net

THE JOY OF BLESSING OTHERS

This summer was a very productive time for our three work teams to Mexico. We built three houses for needy families in three different cities: Monclova, Piedras Negras, and Acuña. One of the greatest joys I have is to turn the keys over to these dear people and see and experience the thankful from the bottom of their hearts. We are thankful to all Short-Term Team members who gave their time and means to bless our brothers and sisters in Mexico.

We also conducted Vacation Bible School and Women's Bible studies in each location. This part of our Short-Term Team ministry is the very heart of our mandate to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Through ministering to women and children the seeds of the Gospel are planted that will bring forth fruit in months and years to come.

Short-Term Team Dates MEXICO 2009

June 20–27
July 11–18 (FULL)
July 18–25 (FULL)
August 1–9 (Camp Morelos)

The only dates open for 2009 for a work team are June 20–27. If you desire to join this team, we must hear from you by October 31, 2008. We will add names as we receive an application with a $50 deposit. We are only taking three work teams to Mexico next summer. Anyone desiring to go to Morelos needs to contact us by October 31, 2008.

OFWB INTERNATIONAL FOREIGN MISSIONS

NEW WORKER IN VARNA, BULGARIA—NIKOLAI ASENOV

by Willem van der Plas

With pleasure I like to introduce to you our brother, Mr. Nikolai Asenov, who is working with the Rev. Kosta Ivanov at Varna since about two years. Nikolai is about 37 years old, married, and has two children. During the last four years, we have been searching for an enthusiastic, faithful youth worker, a Christian man who is willing to give his time and energy to the youth at Varna. Kosta and Nikolai met each other some years ago at Asperugovo, which is a suburb of the large city Varna. Nikolai has a part-time job with the municipality, working with youth of the minority groups of the Turkish inhabitants, Gypsies and Tartars. He tries to unite them together by means of sports and entertainment. His job at the municipality is part-time because there are no funds for a full-time job in that sector. Through him we have access to the Mayor, which is always an advantage in our work situation.

Kosta worked mainly among the Gypsies and Turkish people; both, Kosta and Nikolai shared their experiences. It is difficult to bring the adults of various ethnic backgrounds together, but the youth show more openness, tolerance, and understanding toward one another. Even the Bulgarian youth are partaking in the sports activities of Nikolai.

The two men decided to cooperate with each other: Nikolai with sports and entertainment in Asperugovo and Kosta with the church activities in that township. Slowly but gradually, they noticed the development of unity between the young people of the municipality and the church groups.

Last year Nikolai accepted a part-time job with the youth of our church as praise group leader and music teacher in the Gypsy-style. We wish both men a fruitful future and blessed cooperation in witnessing Jesus Christ as Lord of all.

JUST SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT SHARING

by Willem van der Plas

Lydia and I are always thankful for the loving and sharing lessons, which we received first from our brothers and sisters in the Arapahoe Free Will Baptist Church and later from the whole Original Free Will Baptist denomination. We know that many of you join us into the universal venture of World Missions, taking God's light to shine in every place where it is dark. Darkness still rules on all continents and it will continue to appear as long as the Lord allows. Let our light shine into the darkness to the glory of our Father. Isaiah said once: "Arise, Jerusalem, and shine like the sun. The glory of the Lord is shining on you" (paraphrased). Please, read Isaiah 60:1–3.

Nations will be drawn to your light and kings to the dawning of your new day. Jesus says: "You are like light for the whole world—your light must shine for people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in Heaven" (paraphrased). Please read Matthew 5:14–16. The tokens of sharing love and loving care have drawn us into the Original Free Will Baptist denomination and we never regret the choice of our hearts to belong to you in Christ.

Recently, I received some mail with complaints that the gasoline is very expensive and that the food prices are going up. This happens worldwide, from the poorest country to the wealthiest nation. Imagining the situation, I thought: "Lord, how can we praise you honestly on Thanksgiving Day?" How do we draw our standards? If I compare our financial situation with the wealthy people I am poor, and if I compare our situation with the poor, I am wealthy. The prices have been raised so high that it is difficult to save, but they are never too high to sacrifice to the Lord. "Teach me to follow your ways O Lord and I shall live." This prayer helps us to double our offerings to the Kingdom of God, to let His light shine on all the earth. Arise and shine, because you are the Light.

The less we can save for ourselves the more we are able donate to the Kingdom of God, because our treasure is Jesus Christ who gave all He had; His integrity and His life. I am convinced that if we keep the Light, which we received for ourselves and don't share it with the world, the Light of the Lord will fade and extinguish.

Thank you that you allowed us to partake in the ministry of your denomination, thank you for all the love that you have shown to us. Thank you for all that we learned of you. We know you as a loving and contributing people with a heart for others and for the Lord. May the Lord give us many more years to serve in your Foreign Missions Ministry.

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN CELEBRATION DAY

Twenty-three years ago, our Friends of Children program was started. This program allowed individuals, youth groups, layman's leagues, auxiliaries, Sunday School classes, and others an opportunity to reach out and share their resources, ensuring the future of children being served by the Children's Home and giving them a chance toward a brighter future.

Every year we take the opportunity to share with all of our friends at a special celebration. Our Friends of Children Appreciation Day will be held on November 22, 2008, with lunch at 12 NOON in Whitley Center. We hope to see you there.

INVITATION

The Board of Directors of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home invite you and your guests to our annual luncheon for Friends of Children Appreciation Day on Saturday, November 22, 2008, 12 noon, in Whitley Center on campus. The speaker will be The Reverend Johnny Sullivan, pastor of Daniel's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson, NC. We encourage you to come and be a part of this special occasion.

Please RSVP by October 31, 2008

Number in Party _____

Name: _____ Telephone _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please return above form to:

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME, INC.
P.O. Box 249
Middlesex, NC 27557

Telephone: (252) 235-2161 or Fax: (252) 235-2625
Email: cbatten@fwbchildrenshome.org

CAMPUS VISITORS

On August 28 members of the Woodman of the World, Bailey Lodge presented an American Flag to the Children's Home. Woodman of the World is a fraternal insurance company with many lodges located near the Children's Home. They have been faithful in supporting the Free Will Baptist Children's Home throughout the years. Pictured is Ms. Becky Smith, treasurer of the Bailey Lodge, making the presentation to Mr. Gary Lee.

Progress Energy recently celebrated 100 years. The Zebulon office took on a project to give back to the community. The results of the employees working together on this project were realized on Thursday, August 28, when representatives from the Zebulon office presented a new washing machine to the Home. We congratulate Progress Energy on their birthday celebration, and we appreciate their show of compassion to the Home.

NEEDS LIST

- Shower Gel, body wash, shampoo, and conditioner
- AA Batteries
- Twin Size Sheets & Comforters
- Kitchen Towels/Dish Cloths
- Trash Bags/Trash Receptacles (34 gallon)
- Heritage Hall renovations ($50,000)
- Curtains/Valances for cottages
- Cottage Christmas Decorations
  - Table Decorations
  - Tree Ornaments
  - Door Decorations

The Philathea Sunday School Class from Pine Level Free Will Baptist Church, Pine Level, took up food items for the Children's Home. The items were delivered by Ms. Louise Davis, president of the woman's auxiliary, and her mother, Mrs. Sallie Evans, a member of the Philathea Sunday School Class.

Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Day Sunday, October 19, 2008

Ideas for Honoring Your Sunday School Teachers

Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Day should be observed in all churches because of the impact these people have on the lives of their students. The three-fold mission of the Sunday School is to teach the knowledge of God, build relationships and share the gospel with everyone. There should be a balance of each of these efforts in the Sunday School program. The Sunday School provides the Biblical foundation for the church and as such should have be a major focus of attention from the pastor, other church leaders and congregation members. Sunday School teachers are the ones to help students realize the real-life applications of the scriptural truths contained in each Sunday's lesson.

There are many ways by which the church can honor these faithful teachers. A few of these are as follows, however, if you would like other ideas, you can contact Mrs. Dudley at the Sunday School Ministry office and she would be glad to help you.

- Nominate the teacher for the OFWB Sunday School Teacher of the Year.
- Publicize the special day by announcements in the church bulletin, inserts in the bulletin, posters placed in and around the church and possibly businesses in the community.
- Focus sermon topics on the importance of Sunday School.
- Have recognition services.
- Give tokens of your gratitude for the faithfulness of the teachers.
- Send e-cards over the Internet.

If You Can Read This, Thank A Sunday School Teacher!

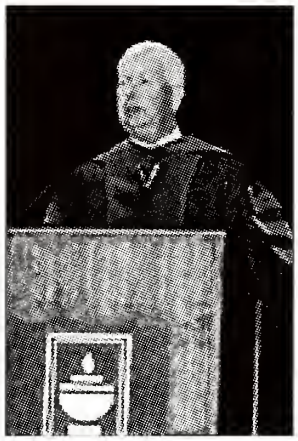
OFWB Sunday School Ministry
PO Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-4963
(252) 559-3327 (Cell Phone)
director@ofwbsundayschool.org

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT HELD

Each student in the summer 2008 graduating class at Mount Olive College was challenged to change the world they live in. The commencement address was delivered by Dr. John Douglas Hood, assistant professor of Business at Mount Olive College.

In addressing the graduates, Hood made an earnest request: "Take what you've learned at Mount Olive College and use it to change the world. It is a privilege for all of us to be here. Not today in Kornegay Arena, not Mount Olive College, but being here in the world." He went on to tell the graduates to love life and not to waste any precious moments.

The summer 2008 graduation ceremony at Mount Olive College was held in Kornegay Arena. Of the 252 graduating seniors 77 were from the Mount Olive campus, 21 were from the Goldsboro location, 66 were from the New Bern location, 28 were from the Research Triangle Park location, 24 were from the Wilmington location, and 36 were from the College's Washington location.



Dr. Doug Hood, commencement speaker

Dr. J. William Byrd, president of MOC, emphasized the importance of generosity. "Be generous, realizing that when you help others, you improve the common good. And that is a good thing," he explained. He went on to note that there are opportunities to influence positive change every day. Byrd concluded by telling the graduates that their departure at the end of the recessional was symbolic of the fact that it will be necessary for them to earn their place at the front with hard work and humility.

OPPORTUNITIES AT MOC

HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE TOURS BEGIN

MOC Admissions Representatives will be traveling to NC counties for high school/college days right after Labor Day. The month of October will be full of opportunities for high school seniors and juniors to visit with college admissions personnel to discuss their college plans. Students interested in learning more about when MOC representatives will be in their county can call (800) 653-0854 or email Meredith Keipper at <mkeipper@moc.edu>.

FALL VISITATION AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Fall Visitation for high school students interested in MOC will be held on Tuesday, November 11, 2008. Parents and family members are also invited to tour the campus, meet faculty and staff, and learn about academic and campus life programs. Contact Jamie Massengill, Assistant Director of Admissions, for more information at <jmassengill@moc.edu> or call toll free at (800) 653-0854.

GETTING READY FOR SPRING SEMESTER 2009

College transfer and high school seniors who want to start classes in January, 2009, can call the MOC Admissions Office for more information at (800) 653-0854. Admissions information and a free online application can be found at <www.moc.edu>.

ONE NIGHT A WEEK PROGRAMS CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

MOC offers one night a week programs for the associate degree, called Heritage Plus (HP), and for bachelor degrees in Management and Organizational Development (MOD), Healthcare Management (HCM), Management of Information Systems (MIS), Religion (MRM), Criminal Justice and Criminology (CJC), and Early Childhood Education (ECE). These programs are designed to help working adults who cannot afford to quit their jobs to attend college. Financial aid is available.

All classes are 4 hours in length, from 6–10 P.M., one night a week except CJC Online, which is online, except for the orientation, which is held at Mount Olive.

Mount Olive Evening College
Contact Allison Sullivan, at <asullivan@moc.edu> or call (800) 653-0854.
CJC Online begins Saturday, January 17, 2009 at 9 A.M. Mount Olive. All other classes online.
HCM begins March 10, 2009 in Mount Olive.
HP begins at Mount Olive on October 9, 2008.
Religion begins at Mount Olive on April 15, 2009.
ECE begins on February 4, 2009 at JCC.
MIS begins May 20, 2009 at Mount Olive.

Mount Olive College at New Bern
Contact Vaughn Purnell, at <vpurnell@moc.edu> or call (800) NEW GOAL.
MOD begins on October 8, 2008.
CJC seated begins on October 23, 2008.
ECE begins November 4, 2008.
HCM begins on November 10, 2008.

Mount Olive College at RTP
Contact Sharon Ogden, at <sogden@moc.edu> or call (800) NEW GOAL.
ECE begins October 27, 2008.
MOD begins January 8, 2009.

Mount Olive College at Washington
Contact Evan Duff, at <eduff@moc.edu> or call (800) NEW GOAL.
CJC seated begins on October 21, 2008.
HP begins on October 27, 2008.
Religion begins on November 13, 2008.
MOD begins on January 21, 2009.
HCM begins January 12, 2009.

Mount Olive College in Wilmington
Contact Marna Davenport, at <mdavenport@moc.edu> or call (800) NEW GOAL.
CJC seated begins October 9, 2008.
ECE begins October 27, 2008.
MOD begins November 5, 2008.
HP begins January 15, 2009.

COMING EVENTS

MOC Recital Series—Ciompi Quartet
October 7 @ 7:30 P.M.
Southern Bank Auditorium
For more information,
contact Mr. Stuart Burnham at:
(919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854

Visitation Day
November 11 @ Mount Olive College
Contact Tim Woodard,
Director of Admissions at:
(919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854 or
<twoodard@moc.edu>

MOC Recital Series—Hamann Sisters
November 12 @ 7:30 P.M.
Rodgers Chapel
For more information,
contact Mr. Stuart Burnham at:
(919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854

2008 FALL DINNER SCHEDULE

Through the annual dinner program the Free Will Baptist denomination, the sponsoring body of the College, has consistently provided generous support for Mount Olive College since the dinners began in 1963. This year's dinner schedule is listed below. All Free Will Baptists are encouraged to attend the dinner in their area and see firsthand some of the students in which they are investing. For information about the dinners, please contact Jean F. Ackiss at <jfackiss@moc.edu> or (919) 658-7744 or (800) 653-0854.

EDGECOMBE COUNTY, Thursday, October 2, 7:00 P.M., First Church, Tarboro, Ray Williamson, Chairman. Goal: $12,950

LENOIR COUNTY, Saturday, October 4, 6:30 P.M., Westside Church, Kinston, Cleo S. Hinson, Chairman. Goal: $31,975

JONES COUNTY, Monday, October 6, 7:00 P.M., Pilgrim Home Church near Dover, Gene Burkett, Chairman. Goal: $8,675

GREENE COUNTY, Monday, October 13, 7:00 P.M., Hull Road Church near Snow Hill, Genevieve M. Taylor and Randy Beaman, Co-Chairpersons. Goal: $58,200

BEAUFORT COUNTY, Saturday, October 18, 6:30 P.M., Southside High School, Chocowinity, Billy Gurkin, Chairman. Goal: $11,375

ONSLOW-BRUNSWICK COUNTIES, Sunday, October 19, 6:00 P.M. Folkstone Church, Folkstone, Ronnie Parker, Chairman. Goal: $3,950

NASH COUNTY, Monday, October 20, 7:00 P.M., Whitley Center, Children's Home, Middlesex, John R. Manning, Chairman. Goal: $7,675

PEE DEE ASSOCIATION, Tuesday, October 21, 7:00 P.M., Beaverdam Church near Chadbourn, Danny McPherson, Chairman. (Gave $11,150 at 2007 dinner)

WASHINGTON, MARTIN, TYRRELL, AND PASQUOTANK COUNTIES, Thursday, October 23, 7:00 P.M., Union Chapel Church near Plymouth, Lloyd W. Jones, Jr., Chairman. Goal: $23,925

PAMLICO COUNTY, Saturday, October 25, 6:00 P.M., Mount Zion Church, Vandemere, Paul Grubbs, Chairman. Goal: $7,700

WAYNE COUNTY, Tuesday, October 28, 7:00 P.M., Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, Mount Olive College, Barbara Lancaster, Chairwoman. Goal: $85,975

DUPLIN COUNTY, Saturday, November 1, 6:00 P.M., Mount Olive College, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, Tommy Benson, Chairman. Goal: $21,575

JOHNSTON-WAKE COUNTIES, Monday, November 3, 7:00 P.M., Everett Chapel Church, Spiritual Life Building, Clayton. Dee Farmer, Chairwoman. Goal: $61,050

CARTERET COUNTY, Saturday, November 8, 6:00 P.M., West Carteret High School, Morehead City, Mr. Ricky Benson and Edgar Pake, Jr., Co-Chairmen. Goal: $11,750

CRAVEN COUNTY, Thursday, November 13, 7:00 P.M., Juniper Chapel Church near Vanceboro, Julie W. Cox, Chairwoman. Goal: $23,475

PITT COUNTY, Monday, November 17, 7:00 P.M., Elm Grove Church near Ayden, William Moore, Chairman. Goal: $52,075

WILSON COUNTY, Tuesday, November 18, 7:00 P.M., Daniels Chapel Church near Wilson, Johnny Sullivan, Chairman. Goal: $52,050

SAMPSON, HARNETT, AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES, Thursday, November 20, 7:00 P.M., Robert's Grove Church near Dunn, Ricky Warren, Chairman. Goal: $50,475

2008 TOTAL DINNER GOAL: $536,000

NEW STUDENTS UP BY 16% AT MOC

Traditional classes at Mount Olive College began Wednesday, August 20. According to Tim Woodard, director of Traditional College Admissions, the College has had a 16% increase of new students, including freshmen and transfers.

"I am pretty sure this is the largest freshman class since Mount Olive College made the transition to a four-year institution," Woodard commented. "I know it is the largest since I started in 1987."

"Mount Olive College is great and growing," Woodard stated. "As our motto says, we are 'Transforming Lives and Transforming Education.' We are attracting more and more students who are seeking a life-changing experience in an academic environment that is far from ordinary."

Being able to play softball was the main attraction for Kelly Bowen, but since arriving at the College, she has found there are a lot more benefits. "I like the fact that I am a name rather than a number, and the fact that you can walk the campus and feel safe," Bowen said. "Everyone is so friendly here," she added.

Arlon Jones chose MOC because, as he said, "It just feels like home." Jones, a member of Oak Grove Church in Newton Grove was very familiar with Mount Olive College. His sister graduated from the institution in 2001, and while growing up, Arlon had attended several functions at MOC. As valedictorian Jones could have gone to college anywhere. In fact, he had planned to go to a larger institution.

"After taking the campus tour and talking with the admissions counselors, I just knew MOC was the place for me," Jones confirmed.

— *Freshman Move-in Day* —

1

2

3

4

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6

1) James Cahoon, past president, member of the MOC Alumni Association, and father of MOC student, Katherine Cahoon, volunteered with other board members to help new freshmen move on campus this fall.

2) Pictured above are alumni board members with Alan Joyner, his wife Janet, and his daughter Rebecca, a freshman at MOC. The Joyner family is from Free Union Church, Greene County.

3) Pictured is Tim Woodard, director of admissions at Mount Olive College, with Eric Williams, a freshman basketball recruit and his father Dean Williams, both of whom attend Stoney Creek Church, Wayne County.

4) Left to right: Freshman Alison Ward on move-in day; Dianne Riley, director of alumni relations; mother and alum Leslie Ward from St. Mary's Church, Craven County.

5) Pictured is freshman Amanda Sharpe from Branch Chapel Church, Johnston County, during move-in day with family members.

6) Left to right: Freshman Trey Baggett with his family from Elm Grove Church, Pitt County; Freshman Audrey Owens with her family from First Church of Wilson, Wilson County; Freshman Rebekah Boykin with her family from First Church of Wilson, Wilson County; Dianne Riley, director of alumni relations.

Virginia Brown with her children
Donnie Brown and Lois Brown Eidson

In the early 1950s, the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary made a decision to honor outstanding members by giving Life Membership Awards. Many Free Will Baptist women have been honored at the local, district, and state level since then. According to our *Manual of Methods of the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary*, a member must exemplify the following traits in order to receive the award: She must be an active OFWB member and active member of the Woman's Auxiliary; she must have given of herself and her talents untiringly to the cause of Christ through the Woman's Auxiliary and the OFWB church; she must understand and appreciate the work of the Woman's Auxiliary at all levels; and she must have inspired others to greater Christian service. The woman we are honoring today with a Life Membership Award excels in all of these areas. She has been a member of the church and auxiliary since the 1950s and has been extremely dedicated in her 50+ years of service. She served as president of the auxiliary from 1975 to 1976 and has willingly given her time and service in various ways.

She uses her many talents in cooking, decorating, gardening, and making beautiful crafts to enhance any activity in which the auxiliary or church is engaged. This includes: decorating windows for Christmas for the Hanging of the Greens services; making Advent wreaths for the December church services; helping to decorate the Chrismon tree; and making flower arrangements, wreaths, mice bricks, pillows, other special crafts, and her famous 8-layer chocolate cake for the Harvest Festival.

She is a soft-spoken lady who always has a beautiful smile and a pleasant greeting for everyone. She has the ability to lift you up and make you feel special even when you're at your lowest.

She and her husband joined the First FWB Church of Greenville and were baptized on November 26, 1950, when the Rev. R. B. Crawford was pastor.

Today, August 17, 2008, we are honoring Virginia Dail Brown, a special lady who is very deserving of this recognition. The following is a brief biography of Miss Virginia as seen through the eyes of her daughter, Lois Brown Eidson:

Mother was born in Greene County, the second of six siblings, to Alberta Singleton Dail and Leo Eugene Dail. They moved to Pitt County, where mother attended Greenville City Elementary Schools. They later moved to Edgecombe County, where she grew up helping on the family farm. Being the oldest girl, many responsibilities fell on her. She learned to cook at a very early age. I heard my grandmother say many times how she had to stand on a lard can so she could reach the counter to make biscuits (a lesson she learned well because she made the prettiest, fluffiest/ and best tasting biscuits you have ever eaten). My granddaddy called them "short cake."

About a year after Mother and Daddy married

in the First Presbyterian Church in Tarboro, North Carolina, I came along. They continued to live and work on the farm until I was a year old. They then moved to Greenville, where Mother got her first paying job working in retail sales with Blount-Harvey. Five years later Tommy was born, and a year later a second baby brother, Donnie, came along to round out our family of five. Mother continued to work at Blount-Harvey for many years before accepting a job at the Jane's Shop, a children's retail clothing shop. The word around town was she "dressed every child in Greenville." She always took her responsibilities very seriously and wanted her customers to be pleased and happy when they left the store. Over the years she made many buying trips to Charlotte and Raleigh to select beautiful clothes for all the lucky children in town who came there to shop.

After a brief break from working in retail clothing, she worked in the Student Supply Store at East Carolina for several years before going to work in the business office as head cashier at Pitt Memorial Hospital. She worked there for about seventeen years before taking her final retirement on July 19, 1985. Even after retirement, Mother's schedule stayed busy caring for her mother who lived in Tarboro. She would make several trips a week to visit, clean, and cook. She did this for the next thirteen years until her mother passed away in 1998.

During all the years of working and serving the public, she ALWAYS had a ready smile and helping hand to all she met, and many times with a heavy heart of her own. While working almost every day of her life, raising three children, one with a severe birth defect, and keeping a home, her strength and faith never wavered. We lost Tommy to spina bifida when he was only 30 years old, and Daddy died of cancer in 1983, at the early age of 65. Life hasn't always been easy, but the blessings, good times, and the help of family and friends have outweighed the difficult times. Mother always stood strong in her faith and belief that God would see you through no matter what life had in store for you.

She is the most wonderful, caring and giving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and Wayne adds the best mother-in-law, anyone could ever hope for. She always seems the happiest when she is doing something for someone else.

It is with pleasure that we present this award to Miss Virginia, who has radiated a true love for this church through the years. She has indeed been a beacon to many she has met along the way.

Western District
Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Wednesday, October 1, 2008
Union Grove OFWB Church
Fremont, NC

Registration: 9 A.M. — Starts: 9:30 A.M.

Theme: "A Call to Action"

Guest Speaker: The Reverend David Charles Hansley,
Director of Home Missions and Disaster Relief

Reminder:
Bring your emergency recovery kits for the
Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Ministry

North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries

Footprints

Footprints convey that someone has gone before us. Leaving a marked way;
And remind us that we also can leave a markd way For those who come after us.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Because of the critical shortage of pastors and other church-related personnel who are equipped for the quality of services our churches and ministries need, a priority of the Foundation is to provide educational opportunities for those who are called to Christian ministry. For scholarship purposes, the Foundation defines "Christian Ministry" as a vocation in an institution, organization or program that is under the auspices of the church, including all ministries of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. Both undergraduate and graduate students attending academically accredited colleges and divinity schools are eligible to apply.

During the past two academic years (2006–2007 and 2007–2008) the Foundation has provided $35,000 in scholarships for fifteen Original Free Will Baptist ministers (licensed or ordained) who were enrolled in the six different institutions:

- Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY
- Baptist Theological Seminary, Richmond, VA
- Campbell University Divinity School, Buies Creek, NC
- Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, NC
- Southeastern Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, NC
- Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, VA

The conference membership of these students included Albemarle (1), Cape Fear (2), Central (4), Eastern (3), and Western (5). Funding for these scholarships included gifts from:

INDIVIDUALS	**$9,750**
The Rev. De and Carolyn Eakes	
Dr. Michael Pelt	
Dr. and Mrs. Burkette Raper	
Dr. and Mrs. Don Ribeiro	
Mrs. Judy Thaanum	
The Rev. Frank Harrison	
CHURCH CONFERENCES	**7,200**
Cape Fear Conference	$2,400
Central Conference	2,400
Western Conference	2,400
CHURCHES AND CHURCH-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS	**11,100**
Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church (Eastern)	$2,000
Black Jack Free Will Baptist Church (Central)	500
Carteret County Union and Sunday School Convention	250
Daly's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church (Eastern)	1,000
Edgewood Free Will Baptist Church (Central)	200
First Free Will Baptist Church, Greenville (Central)	150
Holly Springs Free Will Baptist Church (Western)	200
LaGrange Free Will Baptist Church (Central)	1,000
Mount Zion Free Will Baptist Church (Eastern) Onslow County	500
Men's Fellowship, Mt. Zion FWB Church (Eastern) Onslow County	200
Pleasant Hill Free Will Baptist Church (Central)	100
Robert's Grove FWB Church (Cape Fear)	1,000
Rooty Branch Free Will Baptist Church (Eastern)	4,000
FOUNDATION ENDOWED FUNDS	**6,950**

Grand Total $35,000

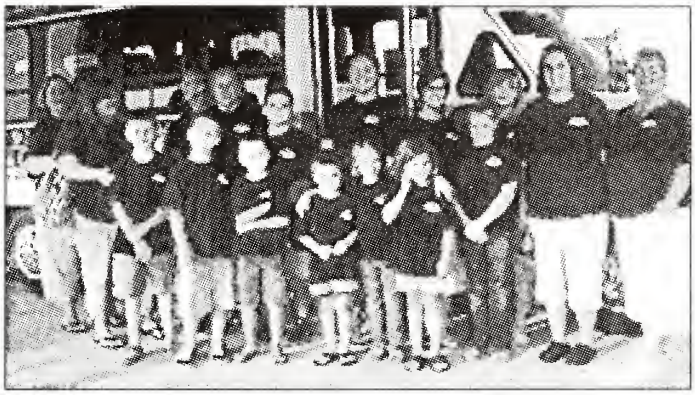
Note: A report on donors to the Scholarship Fund for the 2008–2009 academic year will be provided later. In the meanwhile, the Foundation encourages individuals, churches, and church-related organizations to make gifts to this fund to the end that those called to Christian ministry may equip themselves for the quality of services Original Free Will Baptists will need in future years.

POWHATAN NEWS

Powhatan's Youth have been busy over the summer and are now back in school. Youth Sunday was held in July with youth members handling the morning jobs led by YFA members Hayley Benson and Dean Hardy. There was more singing than usual and much more "crowd" participation. Wanda Benson announced the Youth Member of the Year as Cape Fear Youth Officer Dean Hardy. He received a small gift and his name has been added to the plaque of prior honorees. He brought the morning message that Sunday.

In August, a back-to-school party and lock-in was held for our own youth, and there were many visitors in attendance, too. Food, games, contests, and lots of activities were enjoyed even to the wee hours of the morning. School supplies were distributed to help the youth with getting ready to hit the books again.

These little "PYGgies" took the bus to visit the Meadowview Assisted Living Center on August 20,



singing and signing for the assembled residents. "PYG" stands for the "Powhatan Youth Group" and the black matching shirts identify them. Deacon Dan Harden and wife Becky, who help plan the monthly visits to rest homes by the church, went with the PYGs.

SPRING BRANCH CHURCH NEWS

The Super Seniors of Spring Branch Church enjoyed an outing on Wednesday, August 13, 2008. The trip began after leaving the church with lunch at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in Greenville. After lunch, we journeyed over to Ayden, N. C. and a tour of the Free Will Baptist Press. We were met in the bookstore by Cliff Gray, executive director. We were introduced to the various stages of getting the printing done on items printed by the Press, from the setting of the print to the assembling and the artwork to the finished items. We were amazed at the different stages that are needed to have a completed item.

After the press tour, we went to the headquarters of The Original Free Will Baptist Convention, which is housed in the same building as the Press. We were met by the Rev. Buddy Sasser, director. Again, it was amazing to learn the amount of activity that goes on to keep the churches informed in all phases of work within the denomination. In a very limited space, the work of the church and all phases from the denomination are culminated.

We enjoyed a brief visit with Sandra and Harold Jones, directors of Foreign Missions. They gave us an overview of the work of the Foreign Mission Board. The work in various countries is well shown by the items displayed in their offices. The work in the Philippines as well as other works shows the impact this mission has had on people's lives.

We were privileged to meet with Mrs. Mary Dudley, who gave us an insight of the working of the Sunday School Institute as well as the work of the Home Missions Board. She stressed in this the availability of medical equipment needed for home use that is there for those who have a need for it at no cost. Our people are also urged to let them know if you have any equipment that may not now needed that could be of service to someone else. If it is available, someone from the Home Missions Board will make it available to those who do need it. You only need to call the office and let them know and they will come get it.

Again, the day was a great outing for all those who were able to go on this trip. Thanks again to our pastor, Doug Skinner, for serving as driver of the day!!!

SHADY GROVE NEWS

On Sunday, July 27, 2008, at Shady Grove Church, a variety talent show was presented by the youth and adults. The program began at 6 P.M. and was enjoyed by the audience. The participants shared their God-given talents with their family and friends that evening. Following is a sample of what everyone enjoyed that evening. Soloists were Phyllis McLamb, Brook Beatty, Lynn Prescott, Hannah Croom, Michael Lee, Julianna Raynor, Matthew Prescott, and Stephen Prescott. Duets were Phyllis McLamb and Brook Beatty, Haley and Lindsey Tew, Cayla Lee and Curtlyn Croom, and Linda Stewart and her two sisters-in-laws, who did a comedy routine. Haley Wilson and Rebecca Crumpler presented a puppet show. Hannah Wilson and Morgan Sills did a clogging routine. Jean Wise and Linda Stewart did a duet on the organ and piano. Austin Raynor recited the books of the Bible. Carolyn Jernigan read poetry to the audience. The Shady Grove choir sang 2 selections and then used toy band instruments to play 3 peppy choruses.

(top) All of the variety show participants

(bottom left) Lindsey and Hayley Tew.

(bottom middle) Curtlyn Croom and Cayla Lee.

(bottom right) Matthew Prescott.

After a fun and happy service, everyone was invited to refreshments of homemade ice cream and pound cake, drinks, and chips. It was a wonderful service enjoyed by all.

ROCK SPRINGS FWB CHURCH NEWS

We have been busy at Rock Springs. Our Wednesday night youth groups have been able to attend two Christian music concerts. We had a wonderful time of Christian fellowship and worship.

On Saturday, May 3, we had a Woman's Day program entitled, "It's All About Faith." We started with breakfast prepared by the great cooks at Rock Springs, followed by door prizes (what fun!), then we headed into the sanctuary for an uplifting presentation and testimony by Donna Gallion from the Church on the Rise, Rocky Mount, NC. After a short break, we had a chance for any of the 47 women attending to share what their faith in God had brought them through in their lives. We had amazing women sharing amazing stories about their personal walks with God.

We had ten children and three counselors attend Cragmont this year. I'm not sure who had the most fun, the children or the counselors. The report was the mountaintop experience at Cragmont always makes you feel closer to God.

Our senior citizen group, "The Joy Club," is on the move! We meet the first Tuesday of every month, have a meeting, and go out for lunch together. We have been fortunate to add in a few additional trips this year, including a trip to Old Salem, with upcoming trips planned to Southern Gourmet Foods' Fruit Cake factory and Cragmont for two nights in October that will include a trip on the Great Smoky Mountain Railway. We are also going to Myrtle Beach in December for another overnight trip and take in the Legends Christmas Show. We always plan a trip to look at Christmas lights. This year we are planning to go to Mike's Farm near Beulaville. (There's nothing slow about our senior citizens!)

CHRIST FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

— ATTENDANCE PINS —

Each year on Homecoming Sunday perfect attendance pins are awarded. Christ Freewill Baptist had several to receive pins from just one year, all the way up to 33 years. Pins were given out on August 3. listed are the pin recipients:

- Curtis Stevens–33 years
- Pat Hicks–19 years
- The Rev. David Atkins–15 years
- Nancy Hooper–7 years
- Lily Hopper–4 years
- Harold Hopper–1 year
- Pebbles Joyce–1 year
- Janice Atkins–24 years
- Nancy Stevens–16 years
- Sheryl Hopper–7 years
- Nellie Hopper–7 years
- The Rev. Cathy Vernon–3 years
- Bud Stevens–1 year

From left to right are: Curtis Stevens and Nancy Stevens.

From left to right are: Pat Hicks, Janice Atkins, and the Rev. David Atkins.

— 40th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY —

The Rev. David Atkins and Mrs. Janice Atkins will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on October 20, 2008. Mr. David Atkins has been the pastor of Christ Freewill Baptist Church for 29 years. They have one son, Christopher Atkins, who resides in Illinois.

— HOMECOMING —

On Sunday, August 3, 2008, ChristFreewillBaptistChurch had its annual homecoming. Our guest pastor was the Rev. M. E. Cox (pictured at left). He preached on the homecoming we will have in Heaven. The Rev. Carlee Stallard, pastor of The House of Prayer in Kernersville, also attended our homecoming.

We all had chicken, vegetables, and dessert for lunch. Everyone enjoyed good times and fellowship. We appreciated having Ms. Carlee Stallard and Mr. M. E. Cox as our guests.

SMYRNA NEWS

A church bus loaded with "back-to-school" supplies and nine members of Smyrna Church located in the Meadow area arrived at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Middlesex around 11 A.M. on Thursday, August 21.

The Ethel Tart Circle of the church had sponsored a three-week drive to gather school supplies for the Home and sponsored the trip to carry the supplies to the Home.

The group was met by Gary Lee of Four Oaks, who is a member of Faith Church near Four Oaks, and is now president of the Home, which is sponsored by Original Free Will Baptist Churches in North Carolina, which is celebrating its 88th anniversary.

President Lee accepted the school supplies on behalf of the Home and gave a personal guided tour to those in attendance, including Helen J. Smith, Brenda Parrish, Betsy Whitman, Vila Lee, Thomas and Betty Young, Ethel Parker, and Ray and Helen Smith.

GETTING READY

by Donald Fader

Last month I wrote about the perfect storm that we have found ourselves in. We are now facing problems like job insecurity, health care costs, rising prices, declining real estate values, falling stocks, and turbulence in the financial sector. If you find yourself in trouble, don't beat yourself up too bad. You have a lot of company, including some of the best and brightest people on Wall Street whose mistakes and misdeeds total in the billions, with a capital B.

While misery loves company, there is little consolation in knowing you are in the same boat as a lot of other people, especially if that boat is sinking! Now is the time to develop a strategy of survival, SOS if you will, that will get you where you need to be. Each of us is responsible for our own financial destiny and it is time to stop thinking like victims and start thinking like victors.

Financial Planning: A Biblical Perspective

A well-designed plan is a roadmap to financial independence, and you know that when you use a map you need a starting point and some idea of where you want to go. Anyone who has ever used a map knows that before you can plan a route to where you going you must know where you are. This month we are going to talk about getting ready by finding your starting point. Where are you now, and how did you get there?

As we pointed out last month, most people who are struggling financially didn't plan on being in that position. It just happened and the reason it happened is because they didn't plan for it not to happen. They go to their job every day and work hard only to see their earnings disappear into deep, black holes leaving them wondering, where did the money go? You don't need a fancy software program or a new computer; a composition book and an ink pen will do.

Let's start with the income. Ask yourself, "How much do I make per year?" One of the first mistakes we make in planning our finances is perception. If you earn $36,000 per year you begin to think in terms of $3,000 per month. I mean, after all, $36,000 divided by 12 months is $3,000, right? Sort of. But if you take a close look at your paycheck you will notice that you have several deductions including, federal tax, state tax, social security, and medicare. After these deductions you find that you actually net $2,500 per month not $3,000. Of course, you say, "I know that!" but, in reality, you think in terms of $3,000 and this affects your spending habits. Start thinking net, not gross!

How much do you spend? Most people will say all of it but in many cases people spend more than they make. It's time for you figure out where every dime, OK, every dollar is going. This will take some discipline and a couple of months. Start tracking every dollar and writing it down. This includes the house payment, car payment, and right on down to the kid's lunch money. Also, don't forget those 3, 6, and 12 month bills like auto insurance and county taxes.

Also, keep a record with you during the day so you can write down the fast food breakfasts and lunches, fancy coffee, and any other money you spend during the day. One $3.50 cup of coffee each workday adds up to $75 per month. Count it!

"Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?" (Luke 15:8).

You must be willing to seek diligently until you find out where your money is going. When you know where it is going you will be able to control it better.

This is not an easy exercise but it is critical to the success of your plan. There are things that are beyond our control and these we must leave in the hands of a loving Father. However, there are many things that we have left undone, and to be good stewards requires that we are faithful.

"His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:21 [*emphasis added*]).

It is time for you to become a ruler over your finances and not a slave. Next month, we begin talking about getting started. Until then, get ready.

"The Press to $151,000" Capital Campaign

(Revised Total for Latest Technology)

Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 159 • 3928 Lee Street • Ayden, North Carolina 28513
252.746.6128 • 800.849.3927 • Fax 252.746.9248

Spreading the Word Through the Printed Page!

Purpose:

The purpose of this capital campaign is to enable the Free Will Baptist Press to provide a more viable quality of service to churches, ministries, and individuals of the people of faith called Original Free Will Baptists, as well as the general public. These services include, but are not limited to, our denominational publication, *The Free Will Baptist*, Woman's Auxiliary *Devotion*, Layman's League Bible studies, and our Foundation Sunday School Curriculum.

Goal:

The goal of this campaign is to raise $151,000 for technological needs (which includes computers, a printer, and a Presstek CTP System). We have already secured the computers and printer, and our remaining goal is to secure funding for the **Presstek CTP System**. This piece of equipment will transform our current antiquated print method for major print runs into a more state-of-the-art one. The print quality will transform from our current 80–85 lines per inch to a professional quality 200+ lines per inch and up to 2540 dots per inch.

Financial Statement

Revised Campaign Goal		**$151,000**
Total Funds Received (as of August 1, 2008)		65,000
Equipment Already Purchased:		
Computers (Hardware/Software)	(35,000)	
Digital Color Printer/Press	(23,000)	
Total Funds Remaining		7,000
Additional Funds Needed for Final Item		93,000
Balance on Hand		7,000
Balance Remaining to Raise (for Final Item)		**$86,000**

Capital Raised From:	
Staff (and their Churches)	$4,560
Board Members (and their churches)	$4,363
Churches/Organizations holding membership with "The Press"	$25,863

All-in-all, this equipment will amount to an unprecedented transformation in print quality for the Free Will Baptist Press and will greatly enhance the impact and growth potential this ministry can make to our denomination.

King's Cross Roads FWB Church

2080 Seven Pines Road • Fountain, NC 27829

Make Plans to Visit With Us!

Sunday, October 12, 2008 • Pastor Appreciation Day
10 A.M.—Sunday School
11 A.M.—Morning Worship Service (Lunch to follow)
7 P.M.—REVIVAL Begins

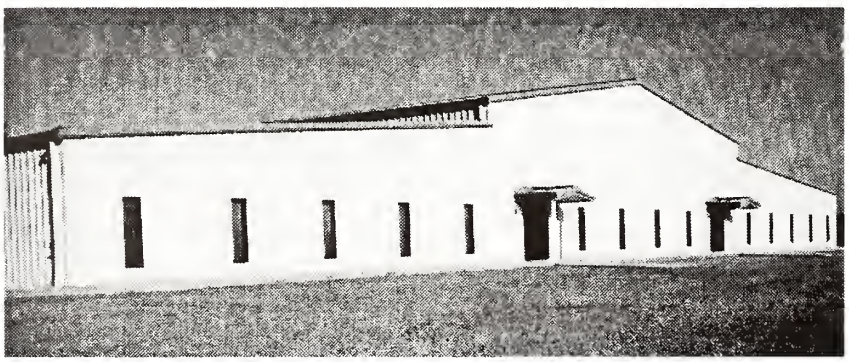
Monday–Friday, October 13–17, 2008 • Services Each Night at 7:30 P.M.
The evangelist is The Reverend Bobby Jackson
and there will be special music nightly by the "KCR" Trio and others

Saturday, October 18, 2008 • Annual Harvest Sale
Each year the church has a Harvest Sale and all proceeds go to one of our denominational ministries. This year all proceeds will go to Cragmont Assembly.

Silent Auction: starts at 3:00 P.M.
Dinner: starts at 4–5:30 P.M. ($6 per plate)
Live Auction: starts at 6 P.M.
Crafts and Baked Goods will be for sale for the duration of the Harvest Sale.

Come, have fun, and help us contribute to Cragmont Assembly!

The church is located between Farmville and Falkland,
approximately 20 miles east of Wilson and 12 miles west of Greenville.



For more information, contact Mrs. Ann Copeland at (252) 830-1510 or Pastor Bruce Jones at (252) 746-6293

Shopping Spree

Saturday, November 15, 2008
9 A.M.–12 NOON

Homemade Crafts, Jewelry, pocketbooks, Christmas Decorations, and Vendors such as Pampered Chef, Tupperware, Avon, Mary Kay, and others!

Little Rock OFWB Church
6115 Little Rock Church Rd.
Lucama, NC 27851

For more information, contact Marci at (252) 239-0361 or <marci@littlerockchurch.net>.

Friendship OFWB Church of Middlesex, NC will have their annual

HOMECOMING

October 26, 2008
Sunday School–9:45 A.M. • Worship–11 A.M.

Everyone is invited to bring a picnic basket and worship and fellowship with us.

The Reverend Harold Jones, director of Foreign Missions, will be our guest speaker.

Churches & Ministry Positions Available

LANWOOD CHAPEL CHURCH is seeking a pianist. Interested persons should contact Shirley Casey at (919) 934-3227 or Lois Peterson at (919) 934-8328.

October 19 - 22, 2008
7:00 pm each night

Featuring

Rev. Dr. Donald Ribeiro

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CALL 215-0682 BEFORE OCTOBER 17, 2008
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Saturday, October 18, 2008
7 P.M.

featuring

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and
THE OAK GROVE BOYS

at

Harmony FWB Church
409 Atlantic Christian College Dr.
Wilson, NC

For directions or questions, call (252) 236-1231.

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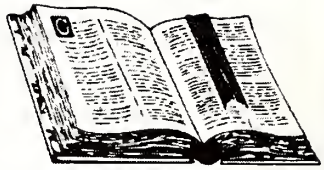

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Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. St. John 17:17

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(maximum of 4 lines)

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These advertising rates are for individuals, churches, and auxiliary organizations. These charges apply to any announcements, coming event listings, invitations, and registration forms. If you have any questions, contact the editor by e-mail at <editor@fwbpress.com> or by phone at (800) 849-3927 ext. 227.
There is no charge for article submissions.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>,
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
  PO Box 159
  Ayden, NC 28513.

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- To provide scholarships to assist those called to Christian ministry in equipping themselves for excellence fulfilling God's purpose for their lives;
- To provide support through endowed funds for the ministries of Original Free Will Baptists in advancing tl mission;
- To assist local churches in establishing endowed funds for the extension and enrichment of their work; and
- To provide management and investment of permanently endowed funds for those who wish to provide support beyond their lifetime for chosen charities, including their church and other Christian purposes.

Identity

The Foundation operates under a charter (Articles of Incorporation) from the State of North Carolina and is recognized by the United States Internal Revenue Service for tax-deductible gifts under Code 501(c)(3). Under approval of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists as an affiliated ministry, the Foundation provides a means, heretofore not available, to advance the work and mission of our church.

For More Information

Those who wish additional information on the Foundation are invited to contact:

W. Burkette Raper, President
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619 West Main Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365

Telephone (919) 658-3855
Fax (919) 635-3777
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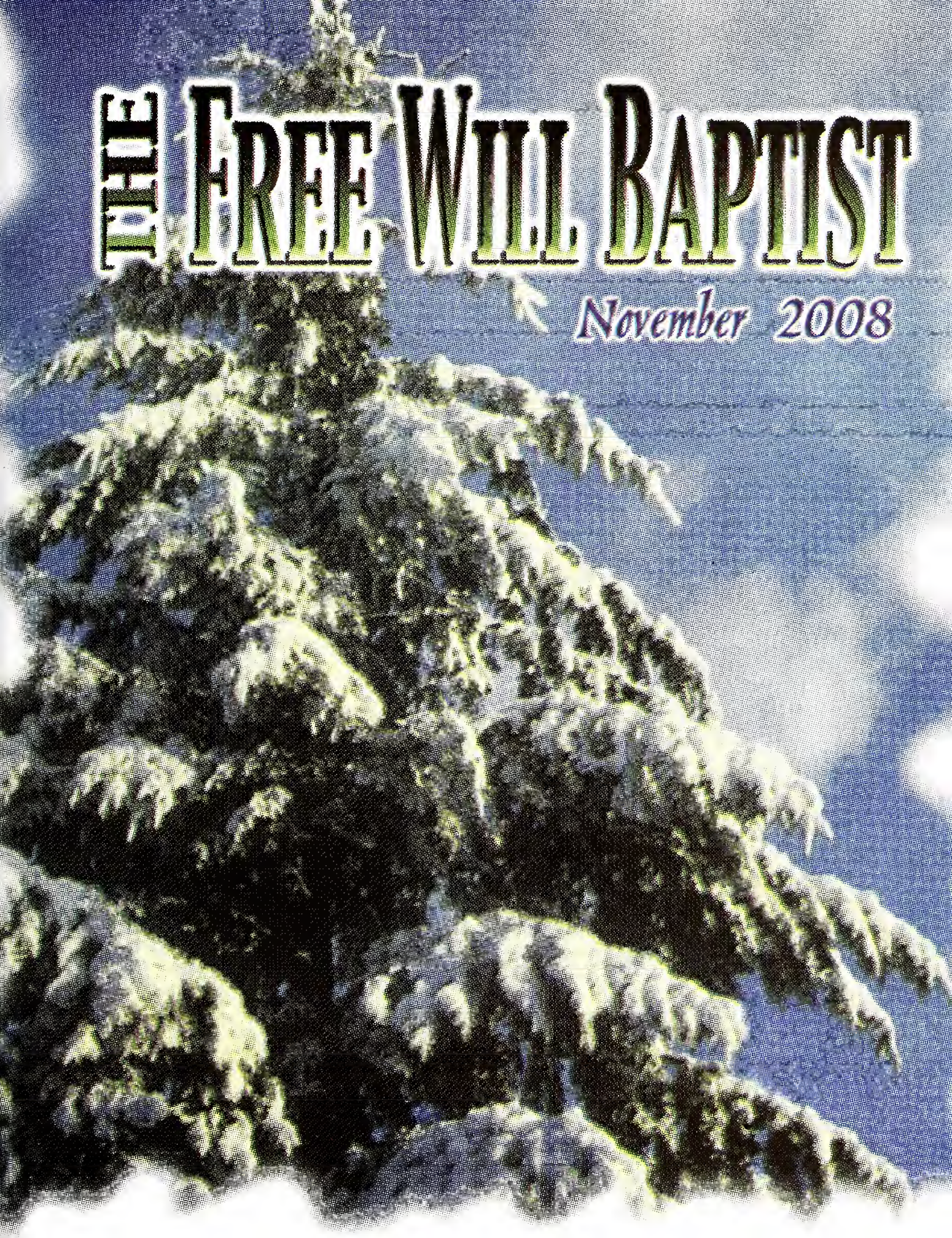
The Free Will Baptist

November 2008



THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST
MONTHLY PLANNER

November 2008

CHILDREN'S HOME MONTH

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS**	3	4 **ELECTION DAY**	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Visitation Day @ MOC **VETERANS DAY**	12 MOC Recital Series—Hamann Sisters @ Rodgers Chapel, 7:30 P.M.	13	14 Convention of OFWB Layman's League Meeting @ Harrell's Chapel, Snow Hill Meal—6 P.M. Business—7 P.M. (Men of Gold recipients will be recognized)	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 MOC Alumni Weekend	22 MOC Alumni Weekend Friends of Children's Day @ FWB Children's Home, 12 NOON
23 MOC Alumni Weekend Reign of Christ/ Christ the King Sunday	24	25 MOC Founders Day, 11:00 A.M. MOC Concert Choir "Psalms and Supplications," @ First Baptist Church, Mt. Olive, 7 P.M.	26	27 **THANKSGIVING DAY**	28	29
30 1st Sunday in Advent						

NOTE:

Color(s) for the season: The colors for Advent are purple or blue. Purple symbolizes both penitence and royalty; blue is the color of hope.

COMING SOON:

December 4: Christmas Buffet, 6 p.m. @ Lois K. Murphy Regional Center—$18 for adults, $8 for children 12 and under. Contact Anne Hamm at (919) 658-2502 for more information.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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POWER VERSE

Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar (Proverbs 30:5–6).

God Is Still In Control

by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer

Before leaving the beach this past September, I decided to take a morning stroll down to the water's edge. During the couple of days we spent there, the weather had been sort of unsettled, with a hefty northeast wind. Such was the case that morning, but it was blowing offshore—away from the land. Thus, the waves were minimum with a gentle lapping on the shore. There were no whitecaps and few ripples. The sun was reflecting its rays on the clouds revealing a mixture of colors. All was tranquil and serene.

Reflections

How often we have sensed the presence of God as we behold His handiwork. Whether it is an ocean scene, a mountain scene, a beautiful flower, or whatever it might be, we are reminded of God's creative hand and sustaining power. David declared in Psalm 19: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handywork" (v. 1). How is it that many are blind to the handiwork of God? How can some believe that all these things just happened? In reality, however, each generation must determine its faith in His creative and redemptive plan. He does not force his will upon anyone, for each person must make his or her own decision about the God who is in control.

As I looked upon the beauty of the ocean that morning in all of its calmness, I was also reminded that the ocean does not always remain calm (and neither does life). When tempests come, it changes into threatening winds and waves, as we often experience along our coast. "What if the earth should tilt only slightly in either direction, what would happen?" We know it is God who determines the course of the stars and movements of the universe, and so precisely that there is no variation. All things are in His hands.

In the midst of Paul's sermon on Mars' Hill, he declared: "For in him we live, and move, and have our being..." (Acts 17:28). In these words there is great consolation, especially in this era of undue stress and anxiety.

Soon we will be celebrating another Thanksgiving Day. Today's turmoil is simply another reason to offer our thanksgiving and praise to the One who is still in control. He is indeed the God of the universe.

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Please Note: Churches may give freely. However, for itemized tax deduction purposes, individuals should give through their church. In order to do this, a church must either set up a fund for the Free Will Baptist Press or already include us in their budget.

When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder I'll Be There

by Lisa Batts

Posted at wilsontimes.com on September 17, 2008, used with permission.

I don't want to forget Tuesday night. I probably wouldn't anyway, but I want to write about it, to tell the world about it.

My daddy might not remember the year he was born, or where the bathroom is or the front door, or how to put on his shoes, but he remembers the hymns he sang for decades in the pews of Marsh Swamp Free Will Baptist Church.

My daughter, Anna, and I stopped by Mama and Daddy's last night after a visit to the county fair. Mama had a miserable day, and when I left her at suppertime, her eyes were red from hours of crying and frustration. I gave her a big hug, squeezed her hand and promised I'd be back before bedtime.

But it was Daddy who needed me more last night. Nighttime is nightmare time for Daddy. He has what's known in the world of Alzheimer's as Sundowners. Once the sun goes down, and actually a few hours before, what's left of his sensibilities escapes him.

He panics and frets and complains and worries: Where will he sleep? Does anyone know where the bed is? How will he stand up from the couch? Will his feet reach the floor? How in the world will he take off all these clothes? Who will help him put on his night clothes? Who will help him take them off in the morning? Is anyone going to feed him? It goes on and on for hours.

He was in full panic mode when Anna and I arrived. Already dressed in his black and gray plaid pajamas, he was leaning to the right, almost falling over against the side of the couch, worrying aloud and loudly how he was going to get up.

"Will someone help me get up? I've got to get up from here." It's a common refrain with no real answer. If you ask him where he wants to go his response is: "I don't know. How in the world am I supposed to know?"

I worked hard to distract him by rubbing his leg, talking softly and encouraging him to relax and calm down. He was having none of it. "Why don't we sing?" I said. He didn't even move his head from its resting spot on the sofa, but his face perked up a little. "Do you want to sing? We can sing some church songs." "Those are good ones," he said.

"What shall we sing?" I asked him. He didn't have any suggestions. My mind raced through the hymns I grew up with, and I tried to think of ones I could remember. I felt like I was on a stage and sort of panicked myself because no song names came to mind. Then I remembered one: "I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore. Very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more." Daddy still didn't move, and I wondered if he was even listening to me.

"But the Master of the sea heard my despairing cry..." And then I heard it. His weakened but beautiful voice joined in: "From the waters lifted me now safe am I. Love lifted me. Love lifted me. When nothing else could help love lifted me." We sang along until we came to the end. I had his attention! He was distracted! He was singing! Anna was amazed. I was ecstatic. But what could we sing next?

Suddenly I was flooded with ideas, and we sang "How Great Thou Art," "Just As I Am," "Jesus Loves Me." He didn't always sing along with the verses, but by the time I hit the chorus, he would join in.

Then I remembered another song, which I knew was one of his favorites: "When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound, and time shall be no more, and the morning breaks, eternal bright and fair." He finally picked up his head and I saw, I really did, a sparkle in his eye. A recognition. A flash of a memory perhaps. And, definitely, joy.

He sang along with me and really piped in when we got to the chorus: "When the roll is called up yonder I'll be there." But as soon as we finished, he started worrying again. "How am I going to get up?" he asked Anna. "Daddy," I said, "let's think of something else to sing."

He didn't want to sing anymore and asked me to stop. But I'm not one to take no for an answer and asked him what was his favorite hymn. He sang a few lines from "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder " again, and I joined in.

Then I asked him if he remembered "I Come to the Garden Alone"? He hesitated for a few seconds, then looked straight ahead and sang by himself, his voice even weaker because I had tired him out. Weaker but even more beautiful and determined: "I come to the garden alone. While the dew is still on the roses." Anna looked at her grandpa, her eyes wide open with amazement and on the verge of tears. Tears did fill my eyes, but I started singing and didn't worry if my emotion showed and my voice cracked.

"And the voice I hear, falling on my ear, the son of God discloses. And he walks with me and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own..."

We sang the whole song. He knew every word. Every word. But on most days, he can't tell you the city we live in and doesn't believe he's in the right house. And many days he can't recognize family members. But he knows the words of the songs he sang at his beloved Marsh Swamp Church.

I've read that our earliest memories are our strongest memories. I believe that's true. I also believe I'll have the memory of Tuesday night for years to come. I only wish Daddy could remember it too.

Best Friends and Faith Traditions: A Response

by Kenneth Wagnon, Union Chapel Church, Middlesex, NC

I am most concerned about the recent article "Best Friends and Faith Traditions." As the author mentioned in his article, "during the course of the conversation, my friend confessed that he did not know much about the religion or its holy book, the Qur'an" it is obvious that the author is uneducated in the matter of Islam. There is no common misunderstanding about the Islamic Faith period. It was founded on the principles of violence; this is proven in the Qur'an and especially the Hadith, which the author failed to utilize as a source before writing his article.

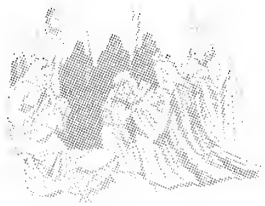
The following is an excerpt from the book *The Truth about Muhammad*. "The battle is already raging. With the use of the Qur'an and Hadith, Muslim hardliners have made deep inroads into peaceful Muslim communities by preaching violent Islam as the 'pure Islam' and calling Muslims back to what they present as the full observance of their religion. And that full observance of their religion involves warfare against non-Muslims."

The attempt to associate Islam with domestic terrorism and the Christian Crusaders should be unacceptable to true Christians. None of the examples used have anything to do with "Religious Terrorism" or world domination. Eric Rudolph indeed! His only claim to Christian religion was that he proclaimed to be part of a radical group called the Christian Identity. The truth of Eric Rudolph is simply he is an anarchist who hates **Government**. You see all of his bombs were situated to kill and hurt police officers responding to the call, not the doctors or nurses. Eric Rudolph's latest words on the Olympic bombings "each bombing was preceded by a 40 to 50 minute 911 call giving time and location of detonation. My intent was to allow each area to be cleared, leaving only uniformed, arms-carrying government personnel exposed to potential injury." So you see this example fails the test for Christian terrorism. Eric Rudolph is simply a sociopath anarchist, with no true ties to Christianity. As for the use of the Ku Klux Klan, they have never used Christianity as a platform for their injustice to civil rights. The use of the burning cross has nothing to do with religion. It is a medieval tradition used by the Scottish. It was not used by the Klan until at the earliest 1920s. The Klan was not started under any Christian principles. It was started by six college-educated men after the Civil war as a social club, because they were no longer part of a fraternity, they wanted to start their own. Then out of boredom they decided to fight against reconstruction. Which lead to intimidating carpet-baggers (Yankees who moved to the south), scalawags (lawbreakers and derelicts) and Freedmen (black freed slaves). So there was never any mention of Christianity in the Jim Crow South and beginning of the KKK, they simply were mean men who obviously had no ounce of Christ's love in their hearts. I have no doubt that the author has come across several if not many nice and friendly Muslims. I too have come to know many from my twenty-seven years of public service as a United States Marine and a Law Enforcement Officer. I took it as a mission to learn as much as I could as a young nineteen-year-old Marine on October 23, 1983 when 241 of my fellow Marines and Sailors were killed in barracks in Lebanon by terrorists in the name of Allah. As for the apparent staged visit to a Mosque on a Friday afternoon, one cannot fully understand or be in a position to give information to others about Islam with one short visit. As a law enforcement officer, I have guarded several mosques for several months at twelve-hour intervals after 9/11; the large crowd always comes at 4:30 A.M. or 7:00 P.M., never at noon!

Free Will Baptists believe and always have believed that Jesus Christ is the only way to be saved from the penalty of sin. We believe that all other "religions" are false. Anytime anyone suggests that we should condone the teachings which could mislead people to think that Islam or any other false religion is an acceptable "faith tradition," then it is our responsibility to confront such false teachings.

My purpose in writing this is to educate all Christians. Don't be fooled by non-practicing Muslims. A true Qur'an, Hadith believing Muslim has a duty to convert all religions to Islam; there is no middle ground—period—by any means. This rebuttal is not to stir hate! We as Christians also have an obligation to love our enemies and to pray for them to accept and believe in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

The Truth about Muhammad: Founder of the World's Most Intolerant Religion. Robert Spencer. Regnery Publishing, 2006.



CHRISTMAS SPONSORSHIP 2008

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7).

Dear Friends:

It is that time again, when we would ask you to prayerfully consider sharing with a child in need during the Christmas season. I know there are concerns regarding the economic instability we are currently faced with, but I also know without a doubt that God is still in control, and He will continue to pour out His blessings on those who bless Him.

One of our biggest challenges at the Home is convincing the children here they are loved, are special, and that people really do care. We share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the children we serve, as well as the true meaning of Christmas. Your acts of sharing demonstrate love and unselfish giving, as well as enforce the Christian attributes we are attempting to instill. Just as you enjoy celebrations and receiving gifts during this season, the children at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home do too.

Preparations have already begun to insure we can make this Christmas season a joyous celebration for the children here. We invite you to be a part of our Christmas sponsorship program, and help us make this a special time of sharing for the children at the Home. You can help do this by contributing $100 for each child you would like to sponsor. Simply complete the Sponsorship Reservation form and return it to us by December 1, 2008.

May you and your family be blessed this Christmas in knowing you have helped us share the joy of this holy season with *His* precious children. Please accept my wishes to you and your family for a very Merry Christmas.

Yours in Christ,
Gary Lee
President/CEO

Free Will Baptist Children's Home Sponsorship Reservation Form

Sponsor: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

_____

Telephone: ( ) _____

Number of Children We would like to sponsor: _____

Comments:

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN'S DAY INVITATION

The Board of Directors of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home invite you and your guests to our annual luncheon for Friends of Children Appreciation Day on Saturday, November 22, 2008, 12 noon, in Whitley Center on campus. The speaker will be the Rev. Johnny Sullivan, pastor of Daniels Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Wilson, NC. We encourage you to come and be a part of this special occasion.

Please RSVP by October 31, 2008

Number in Party _____

Name: _____ Telephone ( ) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please return above form to:

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME, INC.
P.O. Box 249
Middlesex, NC 27557
Telephone: (252) 235-2161 or Fax: (252) 235-2625
E-mail: <cbatten@fwbchildrenshome.org>

CAMPUS VISITORS

To the right are some of our most recent visitors. You are always welcome to visit the Children's Home; we only ask that you call and make an appointment so we have staff available to show you around.

Mt. Zion, Bayboro

Robert's Grove

NEEDS LIST

- Toiletries: Shower Gel, Body Wash, Bath Powder, Body Lotion
- Antiperspirant/ Boys & Girls
- Gift Cards for Residents
- Double A Batteries
- Twin Size Sheet Sets
- Blankets (Twin Size)
- Board Games (age 12–18)
- Kitchen Towels & Dish Cloths
- Heritage Hall Renovations ($50,000)

SIDE WALK SUNDAY SCHOOL ROXAS FFWBC, ROXAS, PALAWAN

by Sis Valme Martinez

Last April the Metro Ministries arrived in Roxas, Palawan to introduce an exciting ministry for young people and children. They called it "Side Walk Sunday School." These young people were trained to get the attention of the children by dramatizing stories in the Bible. They introduced the Four Spiritual Laws and taught our regular attendees to share their faith by distributing fliers and tracts in the community. After two days of training they were able to demonstrate what they had learned. We gathered in the plaza and began the ministry. We gathered 75 children

from our community. The Rev. Teddy Martinez and I just tried to supervise the trained youth and children while they conducted the "Side Walk Sunday School."

Until now, every Sunday afternoon, our young people and church children continue this ministry. They were very excited to have their own ministry of outreach. They are burdened for the lost children in the streets. After their lesson we distribute candies and cookies for their snacks. We discontinued this for one month while our young people conducted a visitation program for each child who attended the "Side Walk Sunday School." We then opened this ministry in another Barangay (village) nearby.

We ask you to pray for us and help support this important ministry.

A DAY OF PRAYER

by Rosana Briones

Prayer is Christian communion with God. We recognize His presence in praise, thanksgiving, and intercession. The Palawan Bible College students, faculty, and staff, the National Department, along with the Free Will Baptist Christian School staff joined together for prayer. The speaker was the Rev. Andrino Segay, Chief Executive Officer of the Free Will Baptist Church Philippines, Inc. He delivered God's Word from John 15:13–15. He shared the importance of prayer in the life of a Christian.

We lifted our praises, thanksgiving, and prayer request to the Lord for the work here in the Philippines and throughout the world, and to our brethren in other countries. Please continue to pray for us especially in God's ministry. Pray for the Palawan Bible College and our co-workers, that God will continue to bless these individuals who have a true commitment to serve in the work of the Lord for the glory of God the Father. Thank you for praying and may God bless us all.

A GOOD NEIGHBOR

by Willem van der Plas

Metin, our special friend who leads a small church in Istanbul, arrived together with his son, Emre, in Varna on Monday morning at five o'clock. Metin will teach some lessons on Christian behavior in the Turkish language and Emre will teach Turkish songs to our Roma-Gypsy members in Balchik; those Gypsies speak Roma and Turkish. Pastor Metin was excited to be with us again and he could not sleep after the whole night traveling by bus. He shared with us several events about the Muslim opposition around his church, which is located in a middle class area.

Yesterday, we heard a story about what recently happened to Osman, one of the new members of his church. He was well-known as a wealthy business man, Real Estate Company owner, accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior, and was baptized. Before, he was a sincere, faithful Muslim, attending the Mosque for prayer every Friday. The furious Imam informed his people about Osman's betrayal to the Muslim members of his community. He threatened that anyone who would maintain any business with him would be cursed by Allah. Osman had to close his business and became one of the poorest church members. No Muslim employer will ever take him as an employee. Many Muslims who turn to Christ are losing their jobs and left by the mercy of Christianity and their churches.

Pastor Metin talked with his congregation about the people who became jobless by their confession that Jesus is Lord. He showed his church members their duty of sharing, in this time that fuels have raised in price and that the food exceeds any prices of the past. On that day Osman and his family attended the worship meeting, he stood up and asked permission to tell his story. "Three days my family and I had no food on the table. We perceived this as a trial of the Lord to all of us. Please pray for us that we may persevere and remain faithful." After the church meeting a Muslim neighbor came to the door of the 'church building' and he brought a large basket filled up with all kind of vegetables, fruit, and bread. Everybody responded, saying: "Look, how the Lord hears prayers, answers them, and provides. This trial really has come from Him."

Yet, Pastor Metin understood this event differently. It was not simply an answer to the prayers of the family that suffered lack of food during three days. He stood up from his chair and asked: "Don't you see what God is telling us? He sends a Muslim to take care for our brother and his family and... He tells us to follow this example. Like our Muslim neighbor we ought to take care of one another, because we are called to share our blessings with the needy. God waits on the right response from all of us. We are placed in this world to obey His command, to be His witnesses by all means, which includes sharing our physical blessings. God provides us enough to share a loaf of bread and a cup of water."

SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

The Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry is awarding Camp Scholarships for those young people from ages 9–18 who wish to go to camp but who need financial assistance. The scholarship value will cover the cost of the camp, with the exception of personal spending money. The procedure is a simple one:

Complete the application below and return it to the Sunday School Director at PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. Use extra paper if it is needed. **Applications must be postmarked by December 31 in order to be considered**.

Be sure the application is accompanied by a letter from the pastor of the church or the Sunday School Superintendent substantiating the financial need.

When the selection has been made by an anonymous committee, the applicant will be notified and will inform the Sunday School Director as to which camp he or she wishes to attend. The Director will then send the money to the appropriate camp, whether at Cragmont Assembly or Camp Vandemere. The applicant will need to provide his or her own spending money for the camp week.

Formal announcement of the Scholarships will be made at the Sunday School Institute at Mount Olive College.

CAMP SCHOLARHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Age _____

Name of Parent or Guardian _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip_____

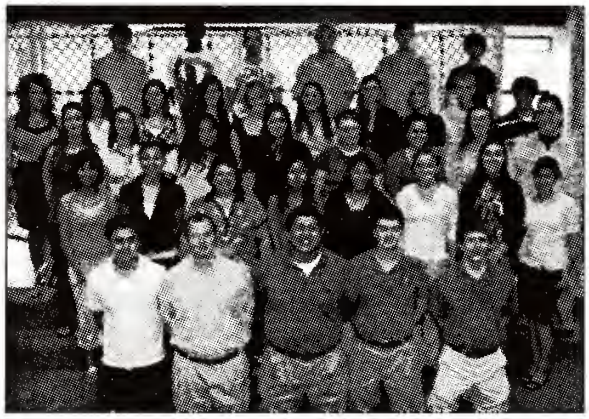
Telephone ( ) _____

Church _____

Conference _____

Write a brief statement as to why you want to go to camp and why you need the financial assistance.

HERRING SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS RECOGNIZED



In 2004 an anonymous donor contributed $5 million to Mount Olive College to establish the Herring Endowed Scholarship fund. Since that time, more than 80 students have benefited from the Fund at Mount Olive College.

According to Jeff Daughtry, director of Planned Giving at MOC, the Herring Student Opportunity Fund is the largest scholarship program at MOC. It provides the greatest amount of money to the largest number of students. During this academic year 42 students are receiving $180,000 from the Fund.

Each year the College hosts a luncheon for the Herring Scholarship recipients to tell the students about the donor who made their education possible.

During the luncheon Daughtry stated, "I would like to tell you about a person who is small in stature, but stands heads and shoulders above most. The contributor of your scholarship did not have the opportunity to go to college, but through generosity is making that dream possible for you."

In addition to learning about the benefactor, the students had an opportunity to put their gratitude into words as each signed a framed photo that will be given to the donor.

Senior Kendra Stroud summed it up best when she penned, "Your amazing investment in me has not only been a financial blessing to my family, but it has also allowed me to experience educational, cultural, and spiritual opportunities that have truly enhanced my life. Thank you for believing in me and my fellow classmates from Duplin County."

To receive the Herring Scholarship students must live in the town of Mount Olive or in Duplin County. Other requirements include financial need, high moral character, a good reputation, and good academic standing. The scholarship is awarded annually for the academic year, and reviewed each semester.

COMING EVENTS

November 11
Visitation Day
Mount Olive College
For more information, call Admissions
(800) 653-0854

November 12
7:30 P.M.
MOC Recital Series—Hamann Sisters
Rodgers Chapel

November 25
11 A.M.
Founders Day
Southern Bank Auditorium

November 25
7 P.M.
Concert Choir
"Psalms and Supplications"
First Baptist Church, Mount Olive

December 4
Christmas Buffet • 6 P.M.
Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
Admission:
$18 for adults
$8 for children 12 and under
For more information,
contact Anne Hamm at (919) 658-2502

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE ANNOUNCES PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

A Presidential Search Committee, assigned to recommend candidates for the presidency of Mount Olive College, has been appointed by Board of Trustees Chairman Darrell Horne. The position description is indicated below.

Mount Olive College President

Position Description

The president serves as the chief executive officer of Mount Olive College and reports to the Board of Trustees. He or she is charged to provide leadership in working with the Board to develop a vision for the progress of the College and to lead the administration of the College in the strategic management of goals and resources to fulfill the mission. The ability to encompass the broad view of the opportunities and responsibilities confronting the College at all its locations while attending to the details essential to successful operations are necessary attributes. Interpersonal skills reflecting an appreciation for the contributions of a wide spectrum of persons who serve the College including students, faculty, staff, trustees, alumni, donors, and volunteers must be evident in the words and deeds of the president.

Personal characteristics will include a demonstrated commitment to a leadership style capable of "enhancing the possible" for providing approaches to educating a diverse assemblage of students in creative and enabling ways. Mount Olive College has adopted as its hallmark a dedication to seeking innovative ways to achieve educational ends not possible through the ordinary. The president must set the stride and lead the charge to make this so. A terminal degree in one of the disciplines of the College is desirable; a record of outstanding leadership is essential, and a successful experience in higher education a strength.

The president shall be a person who gives unqualified evidence of his or her Christian faith and commitment to the mission of the College as stated in its Charter and as interpreted by the Board of Trustees. In addition, he or she shall possess and maintain those academic, professional, personal, and moral qualities necessary for the presidency of an institution of Christian higher education.

Specified Duties of the President: The president shall be directly and ultimately responsible to the Board for the overall direction, management and control of the College, its policies, its officers, its faculty and students. He or she shall have the privilege of the floor at all meetings of the Board and of any committee except when an executive session is called. The Board of Trustees has assigned to the president, under policies established by the Board, responsibility for assuring that the following duties are satisfactorily performed:

a. The administration of policies governing the academic, religious, moral and social life of the Corporation;

b. The administration of the business and fiscal affairs of the College;

c. The preparation, presentation and administration of annual budgets;

d. In conjunction with the Board, planning and carrying out programs to insure sufficient funds for the operation of the College;

e. Providing and maintaining a program of public relations to keep the constituencies of the College properly informed on its programs and activities;

f. The assignment for use of College property;

g. The selection and supervision of personnel capable of implementing effectively the affairs of the College;

h. Subject to Board or designated standing committee approval, the selection and appointment of major administrative officers who report directly to the president and the employment of all persons with faculty rank; and

i. All other duties as shall be necessary for the sound, educational, spiritual and business administration of the College.

Interested individuals should contact:

Performa Higher Education
Joanne Soliday
Executive Vice President
3007 South Church Street
Burlington, NC 27215

Or e-mail <jsoliday@PerformaHE.com>

ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

NOVEMBER 11, 2008: FALL VISITATION DAY AT MOC

High school seniors and their parents are invited to attend one of the visitation days scheduled at MOC. Notify us if you want to visit on Tuesday, November 11, 2008, or Monday, January 19, 2009, to tour the campus, meet students, faculty, and coaches to learn about scholarships and other campus life opportunities. Registration begins at 9 A.M. in the Murphy Regional Center. Contact Jamie Massengill, Assistant Director of Admissions, at <jmassengill@moc.edu> or call admissions at (800) 653-0854 to register.

REGISTRATION FOR SPRING 2009 SEMESTER

College transfer and recent high school graduates who want to begin classes at MOC in January, 2009, can contact Tim Woodard, Director of Admissions at <twoodard@moc.edu> or call (800) 653-0854 to get the admissions process started. A free online application is available at <www.moc.edu>.

ONE NIGHT A WEEK PROGRAMS STARTING SOON

MOC offers one night a week programs for associate and bachelor degree programs at locations in eastern North Carolina. Designed to fit the schedules of working adults, most classes are offered from 6–10 P.M., on the same night of the week for the duration of the programs. Programs offered include Heritage Plus (HP), a four-semester associate degree program, and six upper level programs leading to the BS degree in Management and Organizational Development (MOD), Health Care Management (HCM), Criminal Justice and Criminology (CJC), Early Childhood Education (ECE), Management of Information Systems (MIS), and Religion (MRM). These programs are three semesters in length.

Mount Olive Evening College

Contact Allison Sullivan at <asullivan@moc.edu> or by calling (800) 653-0854.
CJC Online begins Saturday, January 17, 2009 at 9 A.M. in Mount Olive. All other classes are online.
MOD begins January 22, 2009 at Johnston Community College.
ECE begins on February 5, 2009, at Johnston Community College.
HCM begins March 10, 2009 in Mount Olive.
MRM begins on April 15, 2009 at Mount Olive.
MIS begins May 20, 2009, at Mount Olive.

Mount Olive College at New Bern

Contact Vaughn Purnell at <vpurnell@moc.edu> or call (800) NEW GOAL.
CJC seated begins October 23, 2008.
ECE begins November 4, 2008.
HCM begins November 10, 2008.
MOD begins January 12, 2009.
HP begins January 21, 2009.
*MOC will offer programs in Jacksonville, starting sometime after January, 2009.

Mount Olive College at RTP

Contact Jonathan Shores at <jshores@moc.edu> or call (800) NEW GOAL.
MOD begins January 8, 2009.
HCM begins on January 14, 2009.
HP begins January 15, 2009.

Mount Olive College at Washington

Contact Evan Duff at <eduff@moc.edu> or call (800) NEW GOAL.
MRM begins November 13, 2008.
HCM begins January 12, 2009.
MOD begins January 21, 2009.

Mount Olive College at Wilmington

Contact Marna Davenport at <mdavenport@moc.edu> or call (800) NEW GOAL.
MOD begins November 5, 2008.
HP begins January 15, 2009.
HCM begins January 21, 2009.

MOC WILMINGTON HAS A GRAND OPENING EVENT

Mount Olive College at Wilmington has been serving the educational needs of New Hanover and surrounding counties for more than a decade. Since opening its doors in July of 1995, MOC at Wilmington has experienced significant growth. Each year more than 400 MOC at Wilmington students attend classes that are specifically designed to accommodate the career goals and busy lifestyles of working adults.

Because of this exceptional growth, the College has outgrown its old space and has recently moved into a newly constructed building in The Pines Research Park across from Mayfaire Town Center.

To commemorate this milestone, the College held a grand opening and ribbon cutting event at the new location at 1838 Sir Tyler Drive on October 1. Strategically located in a busy, but easily accessible area of Wilmington near Wrightsville Beach, it is expected that the new location will increase the community's awareness of Mount Olive College.

Occupying 12,500 square feet, the new facility contains 11 classrooms, two of which can be opened into large boardroom style spaces; 7 faculty offices; and 9 staff offices. The classroom area includes a video-conferencing room, a science lab, and a computer lab. Contiguous office space provides student services in the areas of enrollment, advisement, financial aid counseling, and student accounts counseling. Along with these enhancements are a business conference room, and a student lounge.

The nontraditional programs at MOC at Wilmington are an innovative approach to education that gives working adults the opportunity to complete their degree while continuing their employment. The College offers bachelor degree programs in Business Administration, Criminal Justice, and Criminology, Early Childhood Education, and Health Care Management. In addition, MOC at Wilmington offers an associate's degree in the Heritage Plus program, a program of general college courses. According to Dr. Davenport, students with an associate's degree can usually finish the four-year program of their choice within two years.

JAZZ FRIDAYS AND SERENADE SUNDAYS

The last Friday of every month will be designated Jazz Fridays at Mount Olive College. During the lunch hour from 12–1 P.M. the public is invited to stop in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center for lunch and music by MOC Jazz.

Every other Sunday, starting October 5, will be designated as Sunday Serenade. During Sunday Serenades various MOC instrumental students will perform light classical, jazz, popular, hymn, and worship standards during the lunch hour from 12–1 P.M. in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center.

These performances are open to the public. There is no cost for the series. Attendees are encouraged to bring a bag lunch or to go through the College's cafeteria line (cost is $5 during the week for general public; $7 on Sunday). For more information, contact Dr. Sherri-Marcia Damon, instrumental music director, at (919) 658-7499.

Mount Olive College: *"Leading Into the Future"*
Alumni Weekend Schedule of Events

Friday, November 21, 2008

12:30 P.M.	12th Annual Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament—Shotgun Start Southern Wayne Country Club—Mulligan, Tee buster, goodie bag, and door prize ticket included
5:00 P.M.	Dinner in honor of 2008 NCAA Division II Baseball National Champions
5:30 P.M.	43rd Annual Pickle Classic—Barton vs. USC Aiken Between the Games—Recognition/presentation of Trojan Baseball Team and National Championship Rings 2008 Trojan Baseball National Champions MOC Concert Choir—National Anthem (Alums Welcome)
8:00 P.M.	Mount Olive College vs. Lenoir Rhyne Hospitality Room hosted by Class of 2008—Pickle Classic Court Presentation

Saturday, November 22, 2008

7:00–10:00 A.M.	Pancake Breakfast sponsored by Andy's for the MOC Women's Softball Team Tickets $5—Contact Coach Morgan Nicholas <mnicholas@moc.edu> or (919) 658-7873
8:30 A.M.	Cystic Fibrosis Walk with Recreation/Leisure Studies and Henderson Science Club
10:30 A.M.	Alumni Awards & Reunion Recognition of 50th and 25th Reunion Classes—Alumni of Year Awards
NOON–6:00 P.M.	Bookstore Open—Poole Administration Building
12:05–1:00 P.M.	Lunch—Alumni Dining Hall—Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
12:10 P.M.	Entertainment—Mount Olive College Singers
12:30 P.M.	50-inning Softball Game—Nancy Chapman Cassell Field
1:00–4:00 P.M.	Open House in all Buildings Bring Prospective Students—Contact Brad Evans (bevans@moc.edu) for admission interviews After lunch, reunion groups are welcome to visit campus; meet together wherever you like. The Golden 50th—1958 / The 20th—1986 The 40th—1968 / The 10th—1998 (at Pickle Classic Saturday) The 30th—1978 / The 1st—2008 (at Pickle Classic Friday) The Silver 25th—1983 Student Art Exhibit and Reception—Teresa Pelt Grubbs Gallery—Laughinghouse Hall
1:00 P.M.	9th Annual Criminal Justice Seminar—Rodgers Chapel
2:00 P.M.	Dedication of the William L. "Bill" Clingan Locker Room—Kornegay Arena
2:30 P.M.	Athletics Hall of Fame Induction/Reception—Inductees: Bill Clingan, Candy Tefertiller, Darwin Carr
3:00–4:30 P.M.	Alumni Tea—"The Depot" downtown Mount Olive—with a Trunk Show from "The Glitz" of Beulaville—Ladies, wear your "Hat"—prizes for most creative.
4:30 P.M.	Pickle Classic Continues—Barton vs. Lenoir Rhyne Between the Games—Crowning of 2008 Pickle Classic Queen & King; Recognition of former Pickle Classic Queens & Kings
5:30 P.M.	Dinner—on your own—MOC Café or area restaurants
7:00 P.M.	Mount Olive College vs. USC Aiken Recognition of the 2008 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees; Hospitality room hosted by the Class of 1998

After the game—Decades of Music for everyone—Andy's

Sunday, November 23, 2008

9:00 A.M.	Alumni Breakfast with President and Mrs. J. William Byrd—Hennessee Room
10:00 A.M.	Memorial Service at the Alumni Cross Walk
10:15 A.M.	Alumni Worship Service—Rodgers Chapel
11:30 A.M.	Buffet Lunch

For more information, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365 • <www.moc.edu> • (919) 658-7761 • <driley@moc.edu> or check <www.moc.edu/register> to download Registration Form online.

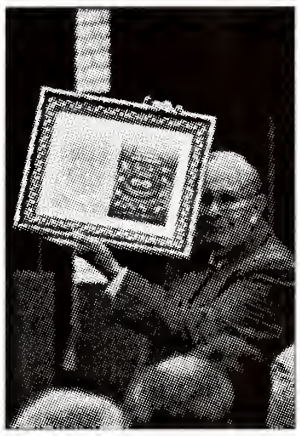
MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE HONORS BRIDGE BUILDERS

Approximately 500 people attended the 2008 Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner at Mount Olive College Saturday night. The dinner is the College's way of expressing appreciation to donors from Free Will Baptist churches throughout Eastern North Carolina.

During 2007–2008 gift support to Mount Olive College from the FWB denomination totaled $1,465,527. Included in that figure was $529,764 given during the College's annual fund programs known as the College Dinner Program. During the Dinner Program, more than 2,200 donors were designated as Bridge Builders, giving $100 or more in unrestricted gifts. Altogether, 248 were designated as MOC Society members, giving $1,000 or more.

"These gifts play a significant role in helping the College develop and serve the needs of our students," stated Jean F. Ackiss, director of Church Support at MOC. "The primary purpose of the Church Dinner Annual Fund is to raise unrestricted gifts to support the College in the areas of greatest need and to sustain its day-to-day operations."

According to Ackiss the best way to express appreciation to donors is to show them how their gifts are being used and for them to see the students they are supporting. In doing just that, the highlight of Saturday's event was a presentation of Christian musical selections by the Mount Olive College Concert Choir and the Mount Olive College Singers under the direction of Dr. Greg Cannady and Free Spirit under the direction of Dr. Alan Armstrong. Armstrong also performed "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes.



The Reverend Earl H. Glenn holding up a framed copy of his book My Humorous Memories of Family and Friends.

Performing Amazing Grace were Alan Armstrong on Bagpipes and the MOC Concert Choir.

During the event Tim Woodard, director of Admissions, gave a riveting presentation based on his 20 years in the Admissions Department at MOC, often comparing the College to the well-known Bible story of David and Goliath. Woodard was followed on stage by Junior Keith Woodard, who gave an inspirational monologue of how his life has been transformed at Mount Olive College. Woodard is a member of Rains Crossroads OFWB Church in Johnston County. He is the son of Jerry and Catherine Woodard of Princeton.

Prior to the program, inspirational music was provided by the Rev. Johnny Sullivan, pastor at Daniels Chapel OFWB in Wilson County. This year's Bridge Builders will receive a copy of the book entitled *My Humorous Memories of Family and Friends*, written by Earl H. Glenn, one of the original members of the MOC Board of Trustees. The books are being provided by the Mount Olive College Press.

Members of the Mount Olive College Trojan Baseball team helped serve the donors, and were given a standing ovation by the crowd for being the 2008 NCAA Division II National Baseball Champions. Members of the staff and faculty served as table hosts and hostesses. Students who receive Free Will Baptist tuition grants also assisted with the event. The food was prepared by Pioneer College Caterers.

Approximately 500 people attended the Bridge Builders Appreciation Event Saturday evening.

Tim Woodard is pictured introducing the MOC National Baseball Champions.

Dr. Gregg Cannady and the MOC concert Choir.

LASSITER ENDOWMENT PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIP FOR MOC STUDENTS

Mount Olive College students are benefitting from an endowed fund established by Donnie E. and Linda Vann Lassiter through the N.C. Foundation of Christian Ministries.

In 2005, Donnie Lassiter, co-founder of Heartland Payment Systems, a financial services company, contributed $1.2 million to the Foundation. This year earnings from that endowment will provide more than $56,000 for educational and charitable purposes. Mount Olive College is receiving more than $4,000 for scholarships to support first generation college students from eastern North Carolina.

"The Endowment was established to give back to society for the many blessings we have been given," stated Donnie Lassiter. "We included Mount Olive College because we feel strongly in the College's purpose and methods of education."

Both Donnie and Linda Lassiter grew up on farms in eastern North Carolina, and were taught the importance of education. They have instilled that same value in their own children. The couple's daughter, Sara Massey, is a recent graduate of Meredith College in Raleigh. Their son, Trent, is a rising senior at MOC majoring in business management. Mr. Lassiter is a member of the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees.

"We are fortunate to have many good schools in our state," Lassiter commented. "In my opinion MOC is the best for educating our future leaders. The College is large enough to excel in education but small enough to care."

Knowing that an endowment is actually a donor's living legacy, Lassiter was asked what he would like his endowment to say about his family to future generations. He responded, "I would like this endowment to tell others that someone came before them that cared enough about their future to help with their education. Our only request is that each scholarship recipient returns the favor later in life when they are capable to do so."

The Mount Olive College Society

Transforming Education. Transforming Lives.

The Mount Olive College Society is composed of individuals and organizations who believe in the mission of Mount Olive College and pledge to become partners with the College in transforming education and transforming lives. Society members are committed to advancing Mount Olive College through individual actions and financial support of $1,000 or more annually. Bridge Builder gifts through the Annual Dinner Program count toward Society membership.

As a token of gratitude and a visible sign of support for Mount Olive College, a handcrafted decorative pin for the ladies and a custom designed necktie for the men is presented to Society members to be worn proudly at Mount Olive College functions.

If you are not already a member of the Mount Olive College Society, prayerfully consider joining together with more than 500 other generous donors who now comprise this distinctive group.

The greatest recognition of the gifts of Society members will be the gratitude of students whose lives are transformed through their experiences at Mount Olive College.

The Mount Olive College Society:

Central in the Effort to "Transform Education and Transform Lives"

FALL CRAGMONT WOMAN'S CONFERENCE
September 19–21, 2008

by Jean Averette

The skies lit up over western North Carolina as the first fall Cragmont Woman's Conference was held on September 19–21, 2008. The theme of the conference was "Set on Fire," and that is exactly what speaker Becky Jo Sumner did for the thirty women and three men who attended the conference.

On Friday evening, May Pittman, director of Cragmont Woman's Conference welcomed us, gave necessary instructions, and conducted an entertaining "get acquainted" activity. She also introduced the staff for the weekend conference: Gail Heath, Music Director; JoAnn Parrish, Pianist; Becky Jo Sumner, Bible Teacher; and May Pittman, Director. Although Joan Little, Registrar, could not attend the fall conference, it was obvious that she had done an outstanding job in getting campers registered and assigned to rooms in the lodge and main building.

Becky Jo, a member of Hickory Chapel Free Will Baptist Church of Ahoskie, led us in a Concert of Prayer that was titled "Kindling by Prayer." She shared that the program would be a time of communion and prayer with our Lord and that the privilege and power of prayer is often overlooked in our busy lives. She continued by saying, "It is our desire to begin this weekend by giving every facet of this retreat to the power, direction, and infilling of God."

The Concert of Prayer was conducted in four steps. Step One represented "Responding to our Lord." We sang "Doxology" and then had an opportunity to praise God in prayer within our small groups. Step Two involved "Removing the Scars of Sin." We prayed silently for Christ to cleanse us and we sang "An Evening Prayer." "Releasing Burdens From Home" was the topic of Step Three. We left papers on which we had written our personal prayer requests, our worries and our fears on the communion table at the foot of the cross and then sang "Sweet Hour of Prayer." Step Four was titled "Renewing." We sang "Open My Eyes that I May See" and prayed in our small groups for the conference staff, the campers, the retreat activities, and also the Cragmont staff.

On Saturday morning, we gathered at the campfire area for "Breakfast With Jesus." The campers participated in a reenactment of the scene by the Sea of Tiberias when Jesus reappeared to His disciples and prepared a breakfast of fish for them. We enjoyed fish and bread as we remembered how Jesus questioned Peter about his love for his Savior.

After an additional breakfast in the dining hall, we reassembled in the chapel to continue our spiritual feeding. Becky Jo's topics for the morning session were:

"God, a Consuming Fire;" "In the Midst of the Fire;" "Empowering Fire;" and "Fire's Potential." Being a former fourth grade teacher, she utilized hands-on experiences and demonstrations to convey her message to us. Also being a dedicated Bible scholar, she included the reading of God's Word on each topic. Concerning the topic, "God, a Consuming Fire," she reminded us that God is to be a consuming fire in our lives; that God is a jealous God who is not tolerant of other idols or other gods in our lives; and that God is not to be trifled with.

The second topic, "In the Midst of the Fire," Becky Jo pointed out a negative example—Peter, who warmed himself by the fire, but was afraid to enter the fire and thus denied Christ. The positive example she gave was the experience of the three Hebrew children who walked in the fiery furnace. They walked freely and were not hurt. They accepted the fire as part of their profession. They belonged to God. She encouraged us to step into the fire rather than just enjoy the warmth and pleasure of it. She emphasized that God expects us to step into the fire when He tells us to and that God will be with us in the midst of the fire. She asked us to think on the fact that "the fires of man cannot destroy the child of God."

In her discussion of "Empowering Fire," Becky Jo used the example of the burning bush, which God used as a means to get the attention of Moses and to empower Moses to lead His people from the land of Egypt into the Promised Land. The other example that she used was when early Christians became empowered by the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

Becky Jo pointed out in the last topic, "Fire's Potential," that James calls our tongues fire. She reminded us of Proverbs 15:4 which states, "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit." To demonstrate what our attitudes and our tongues can cause, she concluded by reading a poem entitled, "Chilled to the Soul."

During the Saturday morning session, under the leadership of Gail Heath and accompanied by JoAnn Parrish at the piano, we enjoyed singing the theme song for the conference, "Send the Fire," and other favorites such as "Victory in Jesus," "Breathe on Me," "Something Beautiful," and "I Will Serve Thee."

The Rev. John Williams found time to come into the chapel on Saturday morning to update us on the financial status and future plans for Cragmont. As at other woman's conferences during the year, he offered his beautiful handcrafted wooden bowls for silent auction as a fund raising project for Cragmont. A few campers were able to take one of his creations home with them.

During free time on Saturday afternoon, some of the campers took advantage of local shopping areas, sightseeing in the beautiful mountains or watching the rivalry between North Carolina State University and East Carolina University depicted in a heart-wrenching televised football game. Most of us did take the opportunity for a meditation walk around the grounds of Cragmont, which had been prepared by Becky Jo. As we walked the hilly, wooded area, we were led to meditate on the goodness and greatness of our God and the many blessings which He has provided for us. We were encouraged to put the cares and worries of the world aside and to concentrate on giving our all to the Master.

On Saturday evening, we enjoyed hearing Becky Jo teach the Sunday School lesson from the International Sunday School Lessons, entitled "Community of Values." After a discussion of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes, she concluded with a "love feast" for all of us. We appreciated the opportunity to thank other campers for the love and the "bread of life" they had freely shared during the weekend. Before leaving on Sunday morning, we had an opportunity to attend "church service" in the chapel under the leadership of the Rev. John Williams and our Music Director, Gail Heath. John's message was taken from Matthew 18:15–19 and 5:13–14. He pointed out that even though there are many conflicts that we are facing today, we need to be as the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Our responsibility is to live as witnesses for Christ. We were blessed by the beautiful singing of "It is Well With My Soul" by Lynette Miller from Daniels Chapel Free Will Baptist Church and "Sheltered in the Arms of God" by reunited members of The New Creations formerly of Mount Olive College and their "leader" Diane Riley, currently from Mount Olive College. We certainly felt the presence of God through the message provided by John and the lovely songs that the reunited New Creations and Lynette sang for us.

This weekend conference represented the first Cragmont conference for eleven of the campers. For others, it was one of many that they had attended. To show how much this conference meant to the group, they gave the conference a standing ovation at its completion. There is no doubt that God used Becky Jo, the retreat staff, the Cragmont staff, and the musicians to bring us closer to Him during the weekend. Through their efforts, their long hours of preparation and their manner of presentation, a fire was rekindled in us. The power and presence of God was evident throughout the retreat. The love of God and the love shared by Christian friends created a bond within the group.

Although this was the first fall retreat, we sincerely pray that this conference will join the Morning Star, Day Spring, and Cornerstone Conferences in becoming an annual event.

Retirement Homes Ministry
People Helping People in Jesus' Name

As I write this article, I am doing so with a heavy heart. One of our clients, Betty Johnson went home to be with the Lord on September 29. Betty had been battling cancer for some time and was prepared to accept the Lord's will in her life.

Mrs. Betty lived in our duplex in Ayden. She had lived there since July of 2005. She took care of her home and was so thrilled to be a resident in our duplex. She was proud to be part of a denomination that cares what happens to our retired members as they grow older.

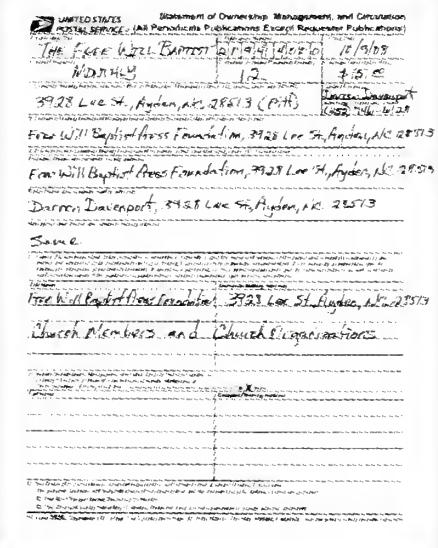
Mrs. Betty Sue Beddard Johnson was born and raised in the Littlefield community of Pitt County. She became a member of Elm Grove OFWB Church at the age of nine and was baptized in Contentnea Creek. She moved to Raleigh as a young adult and lived most of her life and raised her children there.

When Mrs. Betty moved to Ayden, she was thrilled to be able to once again go to her home church and to fellowship and worship with friends and relatives there. See looked forward to going to church and would tell me of things that were occurring at her church.

She is survived by her daughter Deborah Best of Garner, NC, four grandchildren, four great grandchildren, a sister, and two brothers. She was so proud of her family and was always concerned about their welfare.

When I think about our people who find themselves in a situation such as Mrs. Betty did, I am so proud to be a part of this wonderful ministry. God continues to bless this ministry and I know that with your continued prayers and support Free Will Baptist Retirement Homes will be here when others may need a little help.

Ronnie Taylor,
Executive Director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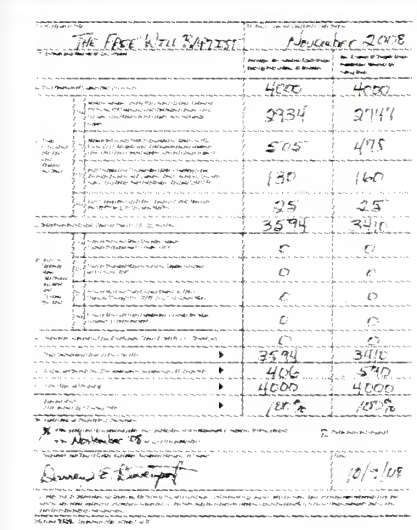
Church Members and Church Organizations


The Free Will Baptist — November 2008

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* November 08

Darren E. Davenport 10/9/08

Footprints convey that someone has gone before us. Leaving a marked way;
And remind us that we also can leave a markd way For those who come after us.

FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTES $61,000

For fiscal year 2008, the Foundation has made distributions in the total amount of $61,527.20 to twelve beneficiaries recommended by the donors of seven endowed funds. The money is for scholarships, churches, Free Will Baptist ministries and other charitable purposes.

Of the money currently being given out, more than $56,000 comes from the Donnie E. and Linda Vann Lassiter Family Fund. The Lassiters are members of the Selma Original Free Will Baptist Church. They initiated their fund with a $1.2 million gift to the Foundation For Christian Ministries in 2005. The biggest gift from the Lassiter Fund this year is a $25,000 for East Carolina University, providing for scholarships in the School of Education and School of Hospitality Management. About $10,000 will go to the Foundation itself to provide scholarships for students studying for Christian ministry, and about $8,500 will go to the Foundation for unrestricted use.

The Lassiter Fund will give $5,000 to Johnston Community College, $4,000 for scholarships at Mount Olive College, $3,000 to North Johnston High School for scholarships and for a Teacher of the Year stipend, and $1,000 to the N. C. Home School Fund.

The Foundation is also distributing money from these funds this year:

• The Silverthorne Family Fund, established by the Silverthornes in Pamlico County, benefiting Bethel Original Free Will Baptist Church, Camp Vandemere, the Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Middlesex, and Mount Olive College for the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection.

• The Casey-McCormack Fund, benefiting Casey's Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church and scholarships for students preparing for Christian ministry.

• The Michael R. Pelt Scholarship Fund for studies leading to Christian ministry.

• The Mae Haddock Fund for youth work in Ormondsville Original Free Will Baptist Church in Greene County.

• The Michael Rouse Family Scholarship Fund for studies leading to Christian ministry.

• And the W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper Fund to the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists for the Commission on Christian ministry.

The Foundation makes it possible for people to establish endowments that will provide perpetual support for educational and charitable purposes.

Distributions of $61,527.20 during 2008, plus $36,000 in 2007, bring the total amount to beneficiaries from endowed funds during the past two years to $97,527.20.

In addition to the seven endowed funds from which distributions have been made, nine other endowed funds have been established with the Foundation from which distributions will begin when assets reach $10,000. In the meanwhile, earnings of these smaller funds are added to the principal.

As of June 30, 2008, the assets of Foundation endowed funds totaled $1,655,269.

(Michael Rouse, Retired Editor of the *Goldsboro News Argus*, contributed to this article.)

"O send out thy light and thy truth"
(Psalm 43:3a)

A LITTLE HISTORY REVIEW FROM A 1972 TRANSCRIPTION

Awake! Awake! A new day is dawning for the Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina. We now have the opportunity to help save and rescue some fainting, struggling seamen. All of us have heard that there's a person gap within the framework of our church and its ministry. This gap can be bridged if we will accept the challenge that is ours in the dawning of this new day through a Christian Recreational Center. The idea for a camp is not something new for us as Original Free Will Baptists. Over two decades ago, there were committees appointed to study the possibilities of a camp along the Eastern Coast of North Carolina.

The people have had a keen interest in a recreational ministry that is Christian in its principals. For many years now our youth have been attending camps that were sponsored by other denominations. That is, if our youth attended camp in the eastern part of the state. Something has to be done. We have awakened. We are moving toward helping the seamen that need our help so desperately. During the setting of the Eastern Conference in 1968, a board of directors was appointed and authorized to proceed with purchasing and developing a camp located in Vandemere, North Carolina, in Pamlico County on the Bay River.

The camp is located in the town of Vandemere. This is a very historic, picturesque fishing community whose name means "Village by the Sea." The campground is about 25 miles from the well-known city of New Bern. In just a matter of a few minutes by way of water are the Neuse and Pamlico Rivers. The broad expanse of familiar salt and fresh water make it ideal as a fishing area. The vast woodlands and organized clubs provide for some of North Carolina's finest in hunting of ducks and deer. The area affords many attractions including two nearby golf courses, Tryon Palace in New Bern and the Phosphate Center of the world.

Camp Vandemere is a non-profit corporation duly chartered under the laws of North Carolina as a recreational and inspirational center. The camp is wholly owned by the Eastern Conference of the Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina and governed by a board of five directors elected by the conference.

At present, Camp Vandemere consists of about 40 acres of land in which one-half has been partially cleared. There's an old house located on the property. This house has been painted and renovated this year. Numbers of men from various churches have given a day of work several days to make this possible. Ladies from the different churches have prepared lunch for the men. More days are in the planning. Maybe you'd like to give a day of work. The kitchen has been furnished with a new stove, stainless steel sink, and a large commercial cooler. A new bathhouse has been built in the location where, in the future, our overnight trailer and tent camping will be developed.

Any church is welcome to use these facilities at the camp for baptismal services or retreats. A Sunday School class, Youth organization, Auxiliary, Layman's League or families are encouraged to visit the campground and use the beautiful picnic area. The plans for the camp are to have year round programs for both youth and adults and families for spiritual retreats and recreational facilities. Come with us now as we tour the property and may we ask you to use your imagination as we help you to dream of the camp's

future. We were able to secure, at no cost to the Camp, the East Carolina University Regional Development Institute to study our thoughts, dreams, and desires. This institute surveyed the property and through many hours of study, prepared this preliminary site layout. The canal located in front of the old house will be dug wider and walled properly to become a boat dock. Many of you have boats and this is where you may desire to keep your boat during the boating season. One of our major concerns today is the shoreline, especially along the front of the picnic area. We are losing our beautiful trees and precious land because of wind and storm. There is approximately 300 feet of waterfront, all of which faces the Bay River. Sometime in the future the house will be moved to make room for overnight trailer campers. Past the picnic area and along the shore line will be the swimming area. The water is very nice and the sandy bottom and shoreline make for better swimming. On this area, you will have an opportunity, along with your families and many Original Free Will Baptists across the state, to enjoy a worship service. Who knows, maybe someday we could produce our own outdoor drama about the beginning of our church in this state. It was along these shores of Eastern North Carolina that we had our beginning. As far back as 1727, maybe earlier than that, it was here, or just a few miles from here, that Palmer, the father of our church, began his work in North Carolina.

The future development will be in five major stages. They are:

1) Construct a water and sewage disposal system along with building a seawall at the picnic area.
2) Build a kitchen, dining hall and dispensary.
3) Build dormitories.
4) Build a chapel and central focal point.
5) Develop the swimming area, boat docks, and landscape the campus.

All five of these stages are important if we produce a total camping program. Now, how many years before this will become reality? Well, this depends upon those of us who have deep conviction of the need of just such a center. Everything must have a beginning. History was made in the past summer of 1971 when the first camp was held at Camp Vandemere. The Reverend Jack Maola was secured by the camp to direct four weeks of encampment. There was a good group of girls for the Girl's Week and we were happy over the number of boys during their weeks. Four tents were purchased and used as sleeping quarters and a larger tent for assembly. All of the tents were arranged very neatly and kept orderly and clean.

A beginning. Yes, just a beginning, but experiences that will never be forgotten. These boys will one day grow to be men, possibly leaders in our churches and denominational work. Their beginning is our beginning. These young boys helped us to make another great moment in the history of our church.

Shall we stop here or shall we continue?

Awake, awake. All of us need times of deep spiritual study, a time when we can stop and listen to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

PURPOSE

"Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily" (Colossians 1:28–29).

As stated in the above Scripture, the purpose of Camp Vandemere, Inc. is to communicate the Christian Life. Through our buildings, grounds, and activities we attempt to communicate the love of God, the saving power of Jesus Christ, the power given by the Holy Spirit, and the abundant life. Through our camping program we seek to communicate that all of life is sacred: "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

CAMP VANDEMERE — The Present

After reading the above article, it is a blessing to know that back in 1968 a group of interested people took action and secured property to conduct a Christian Camping environment in our denomination. Over the years, many of the dreams that were envisioned then have become reality. Through the work and efforts of many individuals, groups, and churches over the past 40 years, dorms, lodges, kitchen/dining hall, pool, sports area/playground, and an indoor and outdoor worship area have been completed. An open invitation is extended to everyone to come down and enjoy what God has given to His people. Thanks to everyone who has had a part in Camp Vandemere's ministry through prayer and financial support and to the vision that His people continue to have for the progress of the camp.

God is good all the time.

For more information, please contact our Interim Camp Manager, Mr. Rick Price at (252) 745-3171.

WOOTENS CHAPEL NEWS

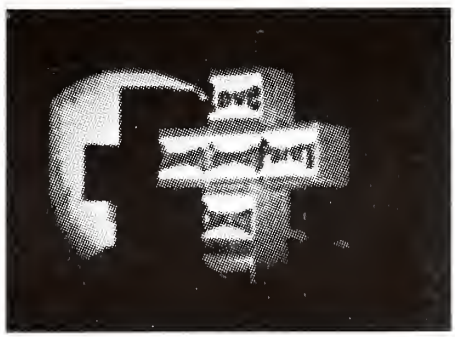
Wootens Chapel is a small church with a small youth group within the OFWB denomination who decided to do something out of the ordinary. Under the leadership of the Youth Director, Ginger McGlamery, and the support and guidance of the pastor, Gene B. Britt, Wootens Chapel Lifesavers Youth Program held a Youth Rally for the community on Saturday, September 13. There were a total of five churches that participated: Free Grace Wesleyan; Hocutt Memorial; Hollands United; Palmer Memorial; and Wildwood Free Will Baptist. There were a total of 138 in attendance for the day! Praise God!

Prior to the event, Patricia Edmondson arranged for the event to be advertised to the public in the Garner Citizen Newspaper and Skip McGlamery organized a scrolling traffic sign to be set up on the church grounds. The event opened with outdoor games organized by Jesse Burford, Skip McGlamery, and Lucas Vann. Overflow parking and traffic were managed by Charles King. After outdoor games, a meal was provided by Judith Pollard, Julia Bowling, and Larry and Darlene Edwards. The meal was served in the fellowship hall with the assistance of Catherine Caudle and Beth McGlamery. Ginger McGlamery prepared a slideshow of youth pictures which played during the meal. After the meal, everyone moved to the sanctuary which was beautifully decorated by Lottie Byrd and Patricia Edmondson. Worship began with praise and worship songs led by Lucas Vann and Ginger McGlamery. Special music was performed by 'Miss Charlotte' from Hocutt Memorial; 'Touch of Grace' from Free Grace Wesleyan; the youth group from Wildwood Free Will Baptist; and the host youth group, Wootens Chapel. Drama was performed by Hollands United youth group and Hocutt Memorial's youth group. Congregational hymns were played by pianist, Shirley Williamson, and pictures of the event were captured by Suzanne Hill-Vann. The highlight of the evening was a message brought forth by evangelist Brian Rogers. The climax of the evening was when many young people came to the altar at the end of the service to re-dedicate their lives to Jesus Christ our Lord. All praise and glory to God!

Thanks to all the churches that participated and the many volunteers within our church family who helped make this event a success.

Dinner in the fellowship hall

Worshipping in the sanctuary



Drama

TRINITY OF CLAYTON NEWS

by Sandy and Terry Ellis

Summer has been an exciting time at Trinity FWB Church of Clayton with opportunities for service and worship. The warm evenings during this time of year is primetime for enjoyment of our nation's greatest pastime, baseball!

In July, seventy-three of us attended church night at the Mudcats Baseball stadium in Zebulon. This was a great outreach opportunity to assist the Free Will Baptist Children's Home ministry with many needed products and a marvelous time for fun and fellowship. The evening included food, fellowship, a winning team, and great fireworks. We even learned some new cheers that we took back to the church, "Everybody clap your hands..." our kids loved it. This was one way for our pastor to get rousing applause from the congregation that following Sunday morning.

God's Big Backyard, our Vacation Bible School theme provided students the opportunity to learn to serve family, friends, neighbors, community, and Jesus. Each life focus of service was emphasized through the stories told by the biblical characters dressed in costumes from that era. Themed snacks, music, and real life experiences shared by professionals who serve the community added more experiences for our kids. Our community corner segment at VBS gave the children an up close and personal visit with our local firemen, EMT, sheriff deputy, and nurse.

In addition, our church is under construction...not from the building perspective, but from the spiritual perspective. Our congregation adopted an aggressive construction plan to build spiritual discipleship, build spiritual fellowship, to build spiritual community, to build spiritual relationships, and spiritual values. Our goal is to have activities and learning experiences related to these themes during the year.

The road to wisdom and knowledge is always under construction. Ms. Mary Dudley, Director of the Sunday School Ministry, assisted us with the dedication of our Sunday School youth area on Sunday August 24. Our youth classes have become a community with individual painted storefronts representing new themes. Ms. Darlene Molden, a local artist, was contracted to help us bring this new community to life with her artistic talents and imagination. She worked tirelessly to hand paint the scenes on each 'store front.'

Our community store fronts (the outside walls of each classroom) include a bookstore representing knowledge, a gym representing strength, a flower shop representing creation, a post office representing communication, a cinema representing vision, a fire station representing rescue, a library representing outreach and youth church. A huge dump truck on the wall is dumping out good character traits, while a huge cement mixer reminds us never to become complacent. Every day is a reminder to keep working for Christ with enthusiasm.

Our mission as believers should be to strive for a closer walk with Christ and a commitment to reach others by the way we live our lives. At Trinity, our future efforts are focused on putting into practice the ideals and tasks that we studied during our Life On Loan experience. If we are willing to serve others, Christ will be lifted up and we will be a blessed people.

EXCITING HAPPENINGS AT TRINITY OF CLAYTON

Our Ladies Auxiliary has begun a study entitled Twelve Extraordinary Women. This study shares the lives and faith of Scripture's most notable women and how each was made extraordinary by her life-changing encounter with God. We are learning how God can use us too, in extraordinary ways.

To strengthen Christian friendship and fellowship the Ladies Auxiliary had a morning out with the women of the church including our daughters and visitors. From this outing activity focus groups (exercise, crafts, scrapbooking) have been formed and will be meeting at different times during the month. The exercise group will meet every Tuesday and if you need to move those bones and muscles around, come out to Trinity each Tuesday night at 5 P.M. The crafts group will meet monthly to learn crafts that our mothers and grandmothers enjoyed doing. Some of our crafts will be creating cards, jewelry making, and quilting to name a few. We are looking forward to having fun as well as creating memories.

To kick off the fall season activities, the Layman's League and Ladies Auxiliary sponsored a "fish fryin' outing" on September 28. Oh, the fish were outstanding, but, boy oh boy, those desserts were so good! Our younger folks, as well as some of the older ones, enjoyed playing and having fun.

An Old-Fashioned Fall Festival Celebration has been planned for October 25 with a variety of activities including a hot dog cookout, apple bobbing, baseball, horseshoes, volleyball, bouncing jumps, and a special treat from the Neuse River Ramblers, a bluegrass and gospel singing group. If you like bluegrass music come and hear this group or give Bonnie Rhodes a call at (919) 553-2648 to have them come to your church.

NEWS FLASH: The Lord is not finished with us yet. We are working for Him at Trinity through our spirit-filled services. Friends, if you are seeking a blessing, come join us on Little Creek Church Road in Clayton. For more information, please visit our website at <www.trinityofclayton.com>.

CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

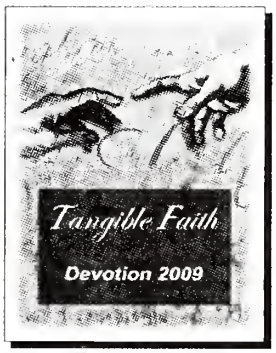
On Saturday, September 27, 2008 Christ Freewill Baptist of Stokesdale, NC had a building fundraiser supper. Hot dogs, chips, drinks, and dessert were served. Special music by the Bobby Atkins family and several other church families sang for the Lord. Some Ladies Auxiliary members had a variety of pies and cakes up for auction. We thank God for a successful fundraiser and all the people who participated.

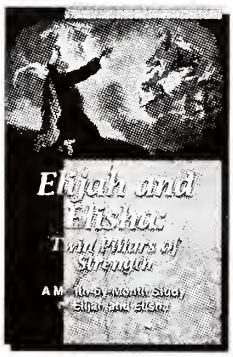
Special music entertainment (L to R): Janice Atkins, the Rev. David Atkins, and Bobby Atkins.

SMYRNA CHURCH NEWS

Pictured left to right are: Richard Whitman, Erin Parker, Kayla Hickok, and Brittney Watson following giving their highlights of their week-long participation in the June 29–July 3 annual Youth Conference at Cragmont Assembly at Black Mountain, N. C.

The four youth represented Smyrna Original Free Will Baptist Church in the Meadow community. Our pastor, the Rev. Richard Whitman presented each of the youth to the congregation during worship service on Sunday, August 31.





Attention

The Woman's Auxiliary *Devotion* and the Layman's League Bible Study for 2009 will begin shipping November 17. Place your orders now!

- Woman's Auxiliary *Devotion* $6.50
- Layman's League Bible Study $5.50

(plus NC tax and shipping charges if applicable)

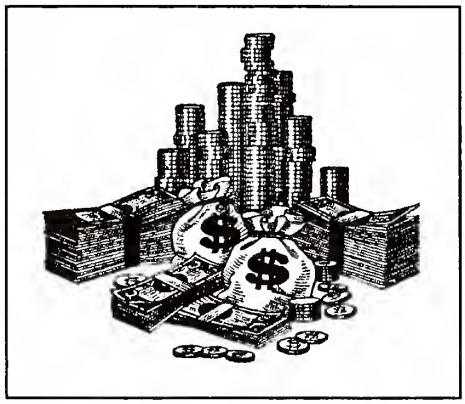
GETTING STARTED

by Donald Fader

Last month we talked about a strategy of survival for the financial challenges that each of us will be facing in the months and possibly years ahead. The first step on the road to victory is accurate and reliable information. How much do you make? How much do you spend? How much do you owe? On the surface these are very simple questions that everyone should know but unfortunately many don't.

In reality while most of us have a good idea what we make most families don't really know what they spend. It seems that many people are afraid to really know how they spend on a monthly basis. People tend to spend in relation to what comes up and not according to any preset plan or budget. In many cases people are afraid to know what their situation really is, preferring to live in a fog of uncertainty until the bill collectors start to call.

"For God hath not given us the ***spirit of fear****; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind"* (2 Timothy 1:7) (emphasis added).



Financial Planning: A Biblical Perspective

Winning the financial victory requires that we overcome our fears and meet our challenges head on. While some things may improve with time financial problems tend to get worse the longer they are ignored so now is time to get started.

Where does your money go? By now you should be on your way to knowing what you spend your money on. Did any of your expenditures surprise you? Eating out, cable TV, lawn service, nail service, hunting and fishing, maid service, clothes, greens fees, spa treatments, credit card bills, and the list goes on and on.

Now is the time for you and your spouse to decide what sacrifices you will make in the short term for financial freedom in the long term. Short-term pain really does equal long-term gain. It is important to note here that this plan requires the buy in of all parties. While a third party may help you make decisions on investments, real estate, mortgages, and retirement when it comes to making deep cuts in the family spending plan they should be made by the family.

Why is that? If you allow someone to make decisions for you then the plan is theirs not yours. You will be less likely to stick to the plan if you were not the one who made the decisions. You and your spouse have to be committed to making the difficult decisions to get you back on the right track and they have to be **your** decisions. You have to work together!

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

Once you have identified which expenditures in your monthly spending plan can be converted into savings it is time to determine what you should do with them. One of the most important investments is a reserve in the event of an emergency, sickness, or layoff. Three months of regular spending is a minimum and twelve months is ideal and they should be in an easily accessible savings or money market account. Most people would observe that if they had 3 months of savings they would not be having financial problems. Of course that is probably true but it still has to be a goal for any well-crafted financial plan.

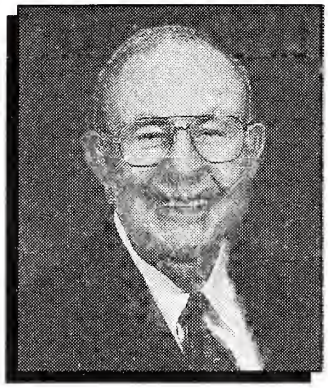
Let's assume that you have identified $300 in monthly savings that you can invest. One-half of this should go into your reserve. What should we do with the other $150? The stock market, real estate, rare coins or original artwork? Not yet. Believe it or not one of the best investments you can ever make is personal debt reduction. While this doesn't sound like a very fancy investment let's consider the following scenario. You have a credit card with a $5,000 balance and a 16% rate with a $100 minimum payment. You have also found a 100% safe guaranteed investment that earns 5% each year. Pay off the credit card or invest?

It will take 83 months to pay off your credit card at $100 per month. You put the other $50 in the guaranteed investment and at the end of 83 months your credit card is paid off and your after tax balance on the investment is $4,772. Not too bad but let's look at it another way. Use the whole $150 toward your credit card and you will have it paid off in 44 months. Now take the same $150 and place it in the investment and in 39 months you will have $6,236. A whopping 32% better return by using debt reduction as your principle investment.

Another benefit is that you have paid off the card more quickly and there is certainly a psychological advantage in knowing that the credit card is gone. Now close that account and double up on the next card and so on. Most of your credit cards probably don't have a $5,000 balance so you will be able to see the results more quickly.

Some ask the question, "Which credit card should I pay off first?" There is certainly an advantage to paying off the highest rate card first but don't be too quick to dismiss the effect of paying off a low balance card quickly and then using those payments to apply to the next balance. Progress toward a goal is an effective motivator.

Next month we will continue to look at taking hold of your finances and winning the victory. In the meantime, don't lose heart; when you multiply small things they can make a big difference.



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Join us for this time of celebration as Daniels Chapel Church hosts this special time for Reverend and Mrs. Earl Glenn. All Bridge Builders for Mount Olive College this fall will be given a free copy of Preacher Glenn's new book "My Humorous Memories Of Family And Friends". Others may purchase a book while here for the book signing. There are a limited number of copies. This will be on a first come, first served basis. Mark this date on your calendar and be sure to join us for this wonderful occasion.

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Dr. Ronnie J. Aycock

(Preacher, Teacher, Consultant)

is available for revivals, seminars, and the pastorate. I have over 39 years experience in the ministry. I am the son of a Baptist Minister and have been involved in the work of the Lord all of my life. I have made it my ministry to encourage the saints as well as stand with and alongside ministers of the Gospel to encourage and hold their arms up as Aaron and Hur did Moses. I know what it takes to make a church healthy and successful. I enjoy a challenge. I have, in my lifetime, written four books along with Bible College curriculum as God has revealed through his Spirit. The work of the Lord and love of people have inspired me to do all I can for the glory of God.

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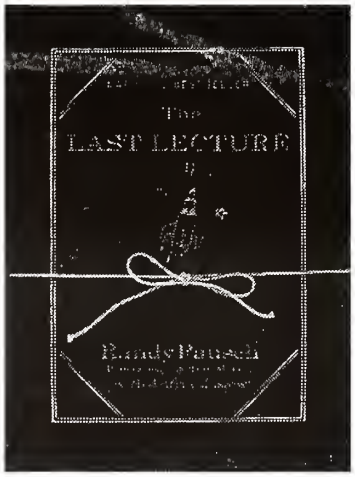
Churches & Ministry Positions Available

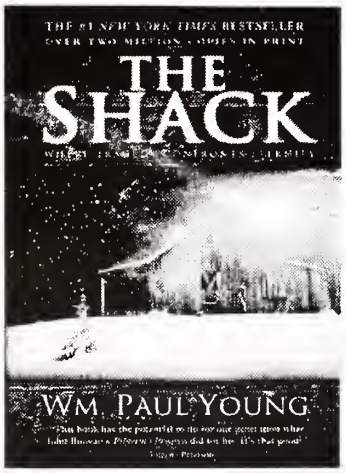
EVERETT CHAPEL CHURCH, CLAYTON, NC, is accepting resumés for an experienced full-time senior pastor. If you feel the Lord is calling you to our service, please submit a comprehensive resumé to: Everett Chapel OFWB Church, Attn: Pulpit Search Committee, 307 Everett Ave., Clayton, NC 27520.

A lot of professors give talks titled "The Last Lecture." Professors are asked to consider their demise and to ruminate on what matters most to them. And while they speak, audiences can't help but mull the same question: What wisdom would we impart to the world if it were our last chance? If we had to vanish tomorrow, what would we want as our legacy?



When Randy Pausch, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon, was asked to give such a lecture, he didn't have to imagine it as his last, since he had recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer. But the lecture he gave—"Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams"—wasn't about dying. It was about the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, of seizing every moment (because "time is all you have... and you may find one day that you have less than you think"). It was a summation of everything Randy had come to believe. It was about *living*.

In this book, Randy Pausch has combined the humor, inspiration, and intelligence that made his lecture such a phenomenon and given it an indelible form. It is a book that will be shared for generations to come.



Mackenzie Allen Phillips's youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later, in the midst of his Great Sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend.

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- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
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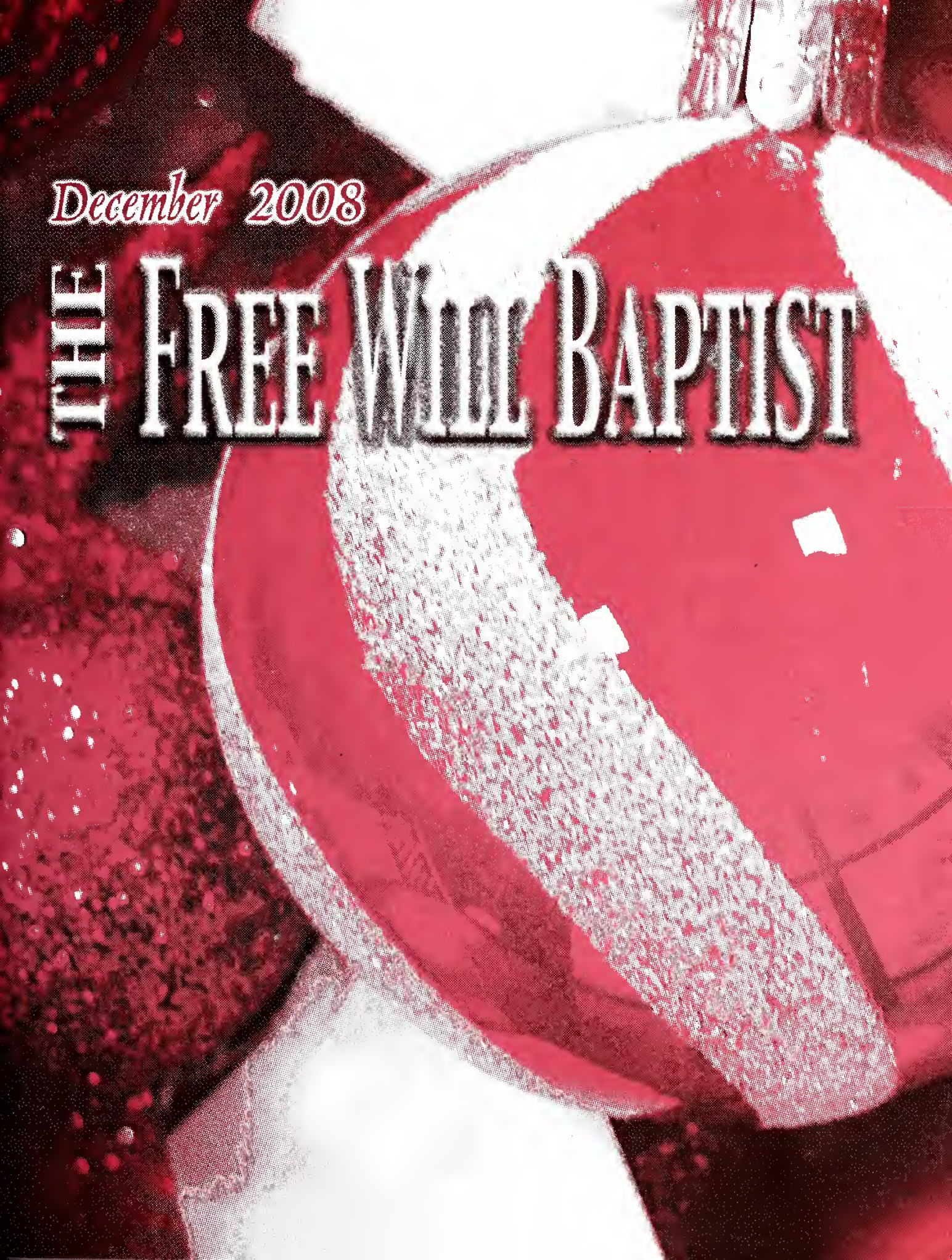

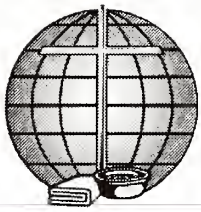

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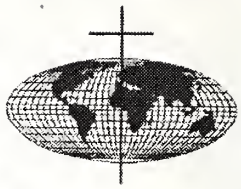
MONTHLY PLANNER

December 2008



FOREIGN MISSIONS MONTH

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 Christmas Buffet, 6 P.M. @ Murphy Center, MOC	5	6
7 2nd Sunday in Advent	8	9	10	11	12	13 MOC Fall Graduation
14 3rd Sunday in Advent	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 4th Sunday in Advent	22	23	24	25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**	26	27
28	29	30	31 **NEW YEAR'S EVE**			

NOTE:

Color(s) for the season: The colors for Advent are purple or blue. Purple symbolizes both penitence and royalty; blue is the color of hope.

COMING SOON:

February 21: FWB Church Night @ MOC. First game begins at 5 P.M.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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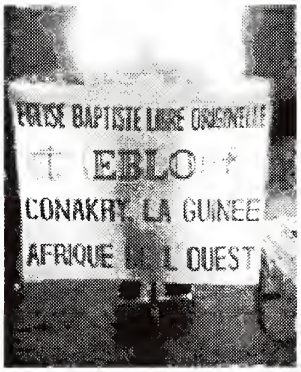

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POWER VERSE

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth (Acts 1:8).

A Favorite Christmas Carol

by C. H. Overman, Guest Writer

It is likely when asked, "What is your favorite Christmas carol?" the answer from many would be "Silent Night, Holy Night." In early childhood we learned its moving words and its harmonious melody. Its popularity has never diminished It's words were written by Joseph Mohr in 1818. Its tune was composed in the same year by Franz Xavier Gruber.

The birthplace of this wonderful hymn was in the Austrian Alps in the region known as Tyrol.

"Far up in these Alpine mountains, where a love of music is nature's gift to every child, nestles the remote town of Oberndorf, Austria. Here in 1818 lived a devout Austrian priest, Joseph Mohr, and his friend the village schoolmaster and church organist, Franz Gruber, who were together destined to give to the world this beautiful Christmas hymn. These two men, both great lovers of music, had often talked of the fact that 'the perfect Christmas song had not yet been found.'

"Meditating on this thought, Mohr sat in his church study on Christmas eve, 1818. Outside, the hushed stillness of the night heightened the snow-clad beauty of the mountain scene. The pure spirit of those high peaks filled his heart with a vision of the radiant peace and joy of the first Christmas tidings, 'Jesus, the Savior is born.' The thoughts which had long been forming in his mind suddenly found clear, musical expression that night in the song we have come to know and love...

"The next morning, Christmas day, Mohr hurried to his friend's home with the manuscript of his precious song. Gruber read it intently, and exclaimed with uncontrolled enthusiasm, 'Friend Mohr, you have found it—the right song—God be praised!"

Gruber then began his work of composing a perfect melody for the perfect song. Thus, it came together—the words and the melody—so beautifully blended. That same evening, the two sang it in the church service. The song spread from the mountains to become one of the Christmas favorites throughout the world. It has been sung by choirs, trios, quartets and soloists. It just may be that its is indeed the world's most cherished Christmas hymn.

(The historical information and quotations in this column are gleaned from the book, Stories of Hymns We Love, *by Cecilia Margaret Rudin, M.A, Chicago, John Rudin & Co., 1949.)*

"The Press to $151,000!" Capital Campaign

It is a wonderful feeling to receive Christmas gifts. As kids, we could not wait to get a present and rip into the paper—with eyes wide open—to see what we received.

Currently, the Free Will Baptist Press is raising capital to purchase much needed printing equipment to continue and improve our missional purpose of "Spreading the Word through the printed page."

Will you help us? (By the way, we can't wait to rip into the paper!)

If you would like to give, complete this form and mail with gift to: Free Will Baptist Press • ATTN: Editor • 3928 Lee Street • Ayden, NC 28513

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Please Note: Churches may give freely. However, for itemized tax deduction purposes, individuals should give through their church. In order to do this, a church must either set up a fund for the Free Will Baptist Press or already include us in their budget.

A Young Boy Asked—"What is a revival?"

by Elaine Swinson

Fall gently creeps in prepared to redecorate the trees and the skies, chasing away summer to make room for the beautiful colors of purple, red, orange, and yellow. The branches of apple trees are bent over barely able to hold up their bounty. Some are even on crutches giving an appearance of their wise and noble ancestors of times gone by.

An explosion of color mirrored from pots and pots of mums threatens to take your breath away as they are proudly displayed between the orange hues of great and small pumpkins. Dramatic shapes of gourds, peeping out here and there, add a whimsical flavor that makes one want to laugh.

It is time for our churches to make plans for Homecoming and for the Fall Revival. History records the intricate pattern of these events designed by our forefathers. These customs are to be upheld in the passing of time by all those who come and go, in honor and respect for those who gave their time, tithes, and talents to build the churches.

Committees are appointed to handle the many and varied tasks that must be accomplished to make Homecoming Day a success. Tables are arranged, table cloths and decorations are displayed, plates, napkins, and cups are put in place, BBQ is purchased (or cooked out behind the church, if we are lucky), tea is made, ice is provided, and serving spoons are placed in the proximity of the dishes filled to the brim with delicious food. And, of course, there has to be a least one or two pots of chicken and pastry fixed.

The church pews will feel a little awkward and maybe even groan a little at the unaccustomed weight of actually having people fill them up. It has always been a mystery if the visitors or folks with their names on the church book who never make an appearance, come to church on Homecoming Day to hear the preacher, mingle with old friends, or just to eat from the unbelievable array of foods waiting for them.

Filled to the brim and completely content, the crowd has gone home to take a little nap. Mama used to say that the few who stay behind to clean up the tables, empty the trash, and sweep the floors will have more stars in their crown than anybody else in Heaven. Rest time for them will just have to wait.

The sermon must have been good, but for some reason no one seems to remember just what it was about. Was it out of the Old or the New Testament? Well, the thought of that good food waiting in the fellowship hall was just too strong to concentrate on much of anything else. Surely he was well paid for his services anyway.

Right on the heels of Homecoming, the week of revival comes rushing in. The selection for the evangelist(s) was made way back in the year just to make sure the church got their "name in the pot" in time. What time does revival start anyway? Everybody is so tired after Homecoming they can't even think straight. All that eating can take the "wind out of your sail."

The revival has been announced over and over again, both in the bulletin and from the pulpit. Everybody should have gotten the word. But the pastor continues to place great emphasis that the youth of the church especially need to attend the revival. This year he even challenges all the youth to make a special effort to attend each night, promising them a reward if they attend the most nights and bring the most visitors with them.

Suddenly, the voice of a young boy is heard in the quietness of the moment, asking, "What is a revival anyway?" There were a few snickers here and there, and a smile or two from some of the older folks, but the startling reality of this child's words must have made our Lord weep.

Was it really possible that in all the great preparations for Homecoming and Revival that the church had miserably failed in the most important things of all? Above all, both the young and the old should be taught about the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. Those who have chosen to attend Original Free Will Baptist churches should also be taught their customs and beliefs, which include revivals.

For those who aren't fortunate enough to have parents who are Christians or those who have parents who just don't care, training by the church is so important. No one should just assume that everyone knows what the definition of a revival or celebrating the Lord's Supper might be. Many kids are just dropped off at the front door, making the church their caretakers, their mentors, and their teachers.

The revival came and went, but the children only came one night which had been set aside by the evangelist for directing the sermon especially toward them. The pews were not filled up on those nights as they had been at Homecoming. Everybody was just too busy doing other "stuff." After all, they had made the effort to be there on that special Sunday—wasn't that enough?

A child's voice, or was it the Lord's, asked the question, "What is a revival?" The empty pews, where you should have been sitting during your last revival, are substantiated proof that you may be guilty of being unable to answer that question in your life. Time is wasting—fall is about to become winter!

Anxiety At Christmas

by Celia Hales

When I was 17 and a member of the youth fellowship in my church, the leader of that fellowship asked me to play the role of Mary in the annual Christmas pageant. We had only one practice and no dress rehearsal. Yet we assembled Mary, Joseph, the Magi, and the shepherds, with a script to be read by the minister. A few words were to be spoken by the players, and I was one of those chosen to speak, briefly. I was to say part of the Magnificat ("My soul doth magnify the Lord..."), and then sit down, in costume, before a manger that had a light in it which was meant to symbolize the baby Jesus.

I was very nervous as I waited in the wings before entering the sanctuary. At 17, I was never one to keep my nerves to myself. I verbally expressed my stage fright, but then walked out on the stage and performed without falter. Our youth leader later expressed extreme surprise that I had carried it off, because, she said, "You were so anxious."

This was a failure in faith at the tender age of 17. There have been many more over my lifetime, because anxiety has plagued me far more than I usually admit. I am much beyond showing it overtly now, and I am often taken to be very poised. But this is not the way of my soul's interior; the poise is my way of coping with the anxiety that sometimes (only sometimes) sweeps over me.

What is the answer? Certainly a stronger faith is in order for me, and I would like to think that my faith has grown at least as much as my coping skills. There can be no strict answer, though I like to believe that God never gives us more than we can bear. We are repeatedly made stronger at the broken places, as literary giant Ernest Hemingway once wrote in a novel.

Yes, poise does help anxiety to dissipate. By far more workable is communion with God when going about daily life. Then the Christmas pageant so long ago is never again replicated with anxiety. Surely the Prince of Peace would want no less of us in this Christmas season.

THOUGHTS ON THE EVE OF AN ELECTION

by The Reverend Marc Boswell

On a flight from Chicago to Richmond, I could not be more pleased to know that the 2008 elections will be over tomorrow night or, at the latest, Wednesday morning. I grow weary of hearing liberal and conservative Christians finding ways to prove how Obama or McCain more appropriately fits the bill of being the "Christian" candidate. I grow weary of the Church in the United States bickering and arguing about the same hot-button issues.

I grow weary of our liberal and conservative attempts to force the language of "pro-life/pro-choice" and "family values/concern for the poor" onto the gospel of a Jew from Nazareth—important as these issues are. I grow weary of wearied Christians claiming they'd rather "vote for Jesus," when I'm quite certain Jesus would decline the nomination as to not be too closely identified with a particular nation-state. I'm also not convinced that conservatives or liberals would truly be happy if Jesus of Nazareth were to truly "take office." I would imagine, as happened 2,000 years ago, the State would have little use for such an unruly, unpatriotic, lower-class citizen who gives ambiguous answers about paying taxes to the State and who teaches the dangerous practice of loving our enemies.

Therefore, I suppose I am most pleased that perhaps the Church in the United States can get back to (or begin in some cases) the business of being a community of healing and peace in a land suffering from the deep wounds of a bitter and untruthful campaign, ugly religious tension, an economic decline, two wars, poor educational systems, and 12 million children who go without healthcare. It is true that outcomes, policy decisions, and court rulings matter, but it is also true that God has been faithfully present through many bad administrations and different political and economic arrangements—on both sides of our two-party system.

I write this not yet knowing who will win the election. Still, I write with a sense of hope: hope that the Church may actually decide to not align itself so tightly to a political party; hope in the continuing presence of Christ in our communities, regardless of who the president may be; hope (and I fear this may be a long shot) that the Church would be a place where people of different racial ethnicities and political parties are fed at the Lord's Table and have their feet washed by the peaceable and truthful disciples of Jesus.

NEW FIELD OPENED—GUINEA, WEST AFRICA (A TRIP TO REMEMBER)

by Darlington Gnininte

The trip to the Republic of Guinea went well. It is good to be back home in Liberia after two weeks away. The Lord was present in everything we did there. He provided protection for us as well as direction in everything we did. Thank you for your prayers as well, they have been of great help.

I am grateful also for your constant prayers that have helped me to be alive today. The trip was not an easy one. We took about 4 days to get there; spent all the four days in a single bus traveling throughout Liberia and entering Guinea. My feet and knees were all swollen. I was used to the food the people eat there. We eat similar food, but their food has no taste at all. All I ate was the French bread as well as cow meat.

OFWB Church, Guinea, West Africa

I am grateful that I survived two accidents, one in the capital itself and the other while returning to Liberia. The one that took place in the capital, the driver was driving without paying attention and he hit a car. I was sitting in the front seat along with another person. For them two persons sit in the front seat, so there is no way to put on the seat belt. When he hit the car, my head when straight on the mirror. I was unconscious for about a minute. I felt heavy pains in my head as if my head split into two. I was afraid to open my eyes thinking I was going to see blood, but something said to me, *I am here with you, have you forgotten?* Immediately I opened my eyes, and there was no blood, and no harm. Everyone was fine. I just began to give glory to God.

The second accident occurred while returning to Liberia. We were on top of a mountain, a very big mountain, and the brakes of the bus failed. We began going down with heavy speed. The more the driver tried to stop, the more the bus continued to move down the mountain. It took us almost fifteen minutes to come down. The bus was rocking and shaking almost going into the valley. A woman by my side shouted, "Jesus," and a Muslim brother by her side shouted "Shut up, don't call that name here again. Just say God." But we continued shouting the name of our Savior until we found ourselves down the mountain. The bus had stopped and there was no harm. That was truly the grace of God. When I got to the military checkpoint, they accused me of being a Nigerian, and a drug dealer. I was arrested and detained for about 15 minutes for interrogation. They searched me and could not find any as they claimed. I presented my passport, and they said the name Darlington is Nigerian. I just never said a word, because I saw them brutalizing an old man. Their major concern was money. When I gave them money they freed me and I was able to cross into Liberia.

This trip was one that will never be forgotten. I just want to give God the glory for the great things He has done.

During one of the teaching sessions

Here on this mountain, the bus had a problem, we were told not to stay long here, because it is a niche to pythons

Members in Guinea

BAPTISM IN CARURAY
SAN VICENTE, PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

by The Rev. Bernardo M. Borja

Baptism in Greek means to "put under." I used this Scripture (Matthew 3:13–15) to help the candidates understand that it not only means to put under the water, but also to "come under" the Lordship of Jesus Christ. One of my ministries is to provide a humble boarding house in Caruray where young people can stay while attending college. We keep the cost very low because most of the students come from very poor families. This boarding house gives us an opportunity to witness to these young people and this baptism is the fruit of this ministry. These twenty young people who have been living in our boarding house, heard the Good News of Jesus Christ daily and made a decision to receive Him as their personal Savior and follow the Lord in water baptism.

This day, October 15, was also a special day for me since I was celebrating my 48th birthday. What a gift God gave me to be able to share the Truth with all these precious ones and to baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This baptism was a great testimony to our community. They were greatly surprised to see such a large number of young people baptized at one time. Glory to God! Let us continue to pray that all people will receive the Good News of God's salvation.

On this same day we also dedicated four children to the Lord, one of which was our granddaughter, Precious. This was followed by the dedication of a banca (fishing boat) owned by one of our members. There were more than 100 persons who attended these services. When we prepared our snacks, we were not expecting such a large number. We feared that we would give out of food, and some would be disappointed, but God performed a miracle. Everyone ate to their satisfaction and there was an excess. Thanks God for His mighty power. Glory to God!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
CRISTO VIENE FWB CHURCH—SANTILLO, MEXICO

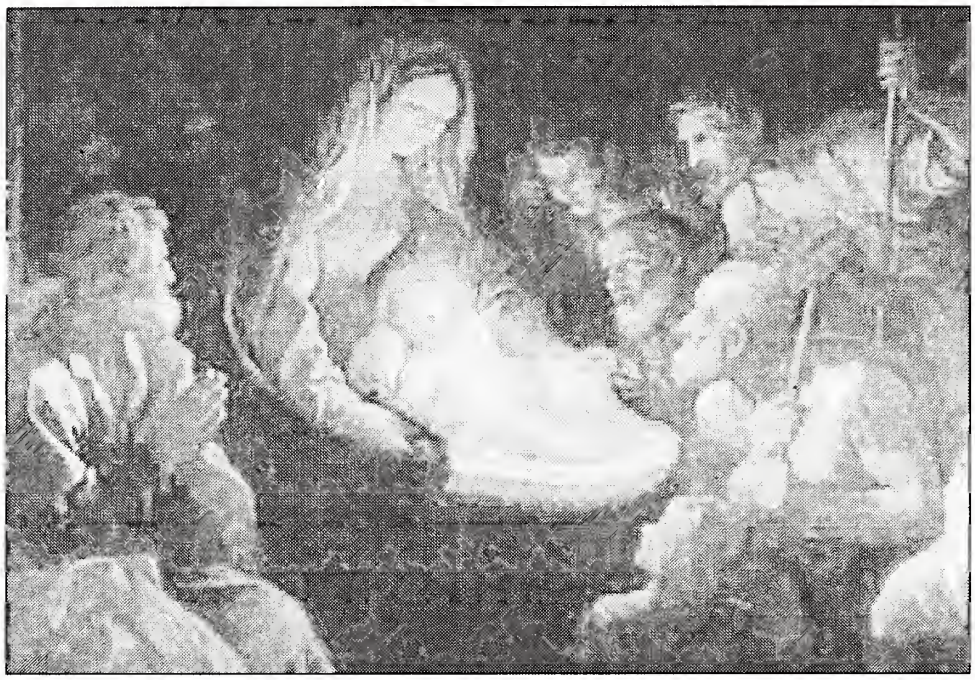
by The Rev. Antonio Escobar

We believe that children should be taught and trained in the things of the Lord. We are living in perilous times and we need a society that fears the Lord. It is very important that we begin teaching the Word of God to children so that when they grow up they will be strong Christians. This will give us a healthy church. It is for them that we have these programs, so they will come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Such teachings will edify their young lives.

This past July 9–11 we had Vacation Bible School. Sister Wendy Rangel was in charge of the program. We believe that the Word of God will truly make these children true sons and daughters of God. We thank the Lord for using Wendy for the children's work. Our goal is to continue working with the children so that we can reach their parents.

"Christ"mas

Christ is Christmas



Christmas greetings from the Board of Foreign Missions, our workers, and their families who faithfully serve the Lord through this ministry. Our prayer is that your Christmas Celebration will be a renewal of your relationship with Him.

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Christ. He came to give Himself for our sins and the sins of the whole world. The wise men came to worship Him and gave Him gifts. The true joy of Christmas rests totally and completely in Him and nothing else. He is the gift that every person on Earth needs.

You can make the Gift of the Gospel available to others through your generous gift to Foreign Missions this Christmas Season. Your gift will literally reach around the world to children, teens, and adults in Mexico, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Liberia, Guinea, Bulgaria, and the Philippines.

God bless you with the warmth of His love as you give to make the truth of His love real to others.

December is Foreign Missions Month

PASTOR/DEACON SEMINAR

Cragmont Assembly
March 26–28, 2008

Cost $110 per person ($50 per person deposit)

The Reverend George Bullard, DMin.

Dr. George Bullard will be our guest speaker for the two-day event. Below please find bio information and web site information about Dr. Bullard. We are taking registrations now for this retreat. You may send in your information by mail or you may call the office to make your reservation (877) 669-7677.

George Bullard is a Ministry partner with The Columbia Partnership

George's vision is to use his spiritual and strategic giftedness to empower congregations and congregational champions to fulfill their vision for Kingdom growth.

George is also Project Director for Lake Hickory Learning Communities Sustaining Pastoral Excellence process (this is a Lily Endowment funded grant working with 70 pastors from multiple denominations on sustaining their excellent practices of ministry). This process is hosted by Hollifield Leadership Center at <www.Hollifield.org>.

George is Senior Editor for The Columbia Partnership Leadership Series, a book series with Chalice Press. (George's first book in this imprint is Pursuing the Full Kingdom Potential of Your Congregation). View and purchase books in print at <www.cbp21.com>.

In Baptist denominational service George was one of the organizational architects during the 1970s of the North American emphasis on congregational redevelopment known as PACT, was the primary organizational architect during the early 1980s of the Mega Focus Cities effort that addressed the Great Commission and Great Commandment challenges in the 50 largest metropolitan areas of the United States, was the primary organizational architect during the early 1990s of the first round of the Empowering Kingdom Growth emphasis of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, and has been the primary architect of the Pursuing Vital Ministry emphasis of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina since 2001. This latter emphasis is known in The Columbia Partnership as a Spiritual Strategic Journey and is supported the following we site: <www.SSJTutorial.org>.

George has coached numerous local, regional, and national denominational organizations among various Baptist groups. Since 1996, George's ministry has been expanded to include work with various denominational families throughout North America. Among them are Assemblies of God, Baptist, Christian Disciples of Christ, Christian and Missionary Alliance, Christian Reformed, Church of God (Cleveland), Episcopal, Evangelical Covenant, Evangelical Free, Lutheran, Methodist, Pentecostal Holiness, Presbyterian, Wesleyan, and other denominational, non-denominational, and par church groups.

George is widely recognized as an advisor to denominational leaders, a futurist, a strategic planning expert, a group process facilitator, a church growth strategist, an authority in conflict management, and a writer. He has extensively developed a lift cycle model for congregations, which helps congregational leaders know what types of assistance they may need to best facilitate growth.

Strategic planning, church growth, missionary church, and conflict management consultations and training have been a major part of George's denominational service during the past 27 years. He has provided in depth consultation services to more that 500 congregations and denominational organizations. He has led or assisted in-depth training of more than 1,000 denominational workers in strategic planning, church growth, mission movements, and conflict management consultation skills.

George is a graduate of Mars Hill College in North Carolina, and has seminary degrees of Master of Divinity, Master of Theology, and Doctor of Ministry.

Web site: <www.TheColumbiaPartnership.org>

HARVEST CELEBRATION

During the month of October each cottage was asked to decorate a pumpkin. The residents seemed to enjoy carving and painting their pumpkins. The designs were placed in the front lobby for all to see. The office staff was tasked with choosing the best design. After the judging was over, the decision was unanimous...all of the children were winners. On the eve of the pumpkin judging all of the residents joined together for a meal of spaghetti, bread, and salad, and then games and a movie.

VISITORS

Members of Lanwood Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, Smithfield, came to the campus for a tour and to drop off commodities.

It is always a pleasure to have you visit with us. We only ask that you call so we can have staff available to show you around.

As the year 2008 is coming to a close, please continue to remember the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, your childcare ministry, in your prayers. The needs of the children we serve are changing, and we stay alert to those changes so we may continue to provide excellent, compassionate care. The lives of the children we serve are being changed in a positive way; changes that will not only impact the child for a lifetime, but will also impact our world.

Thank you for sharing with us in this ministry, as we care for His children.

Merry Christmas from the Staff and Children of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home and wishes for a happy, healthy new year.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE... TO HELP WITH CHRISTMAS 2008

If you haven't taken time to send in your sponsorship form, please do it today. It is our desire that each child we care for may know the joy of being loved and cared for, and realize they are part of a much larger family—the family of God. Thank you for sharing.

Free Will Baptist Children's Home
Christmas Sponsorship Reservation Form

Sponsor: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Number of Children we would like to sponsor @ $100 per child: _____

According to the song, Because He Lives, *by Gloria and Bill Gaither, "God sent His Son, They called Him Jesus, He came to love, heal, and forgive."*

Let us, in the holiday season, never forget the reason for the season—that is to worship the gift that was given to us by God, Himself, to our world. May we take time during this year to thank those who mean so much to us and to ask God to help us know how to show our love and concern to those whom we haven't met. May we realize that there are those whose lives are hurting this season because of disasters of all kinds.

As Jesus opens His arms to us, may we open our arms to others. Remember that Jesus wants others to see Him in us. We are His example to the world.

The Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Board sends its thanks to each individual and/or church that has offered any kind of support to us during the year 2008 and wishes to send God's blessings to each of you during this holiday season!

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MOC SOCIETY GALA WAS TRULY A GRAND EVENT

Amidst his humorous anecdotes award-winning speaker Dr. Charles Petty gave a powerful message to attendees of the second annual MOC Society Gala. In his comments Dr. Petty recalled a time when a public relations event had been staged using former Governor Jim Hunt driving a tractor near the capitol in Raleigh. It was a hot day and area preschoolers had been brought out to witness the event. As a spectator himself, Petty grew tired of watching the tractor till the earth and went over to talk to the preschoolers. He asked one little boy if he knew who was on the tractor. The child replied, "Are we going to have to stay here all day?" Not getting the answer he had hoped for, Dr. Petty asked a little girl, "Do you know who is driving that tractor?" She replied, "Are we going to get anything to eat or drink?"

"I knew then and there that those children did not know and did not care who was on the tractor, but with one vote, the Governor could change those children's future," Petty stated.

Similarly he noted that most students at Mount Olive College don't know the donors who are making their education possible. "But," he said, "I am convinced that at some point in their lives as they sit in the quiet moments of reflection, that they are praising God for you for making their dreams a reality." "Thank you for being generous," he concluded, "Don't play at giving; dreams hang in the balance!"

Dr. Petty spoke to a crowd of nearly 200 people in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center Alumni Dining Room. The room was elegantly decorated for fall with candlelit tables. The College Ambassadors seated guests who were offered glasses of sparkling cider. A menu prepared by Pioneer College Caterers and served by the MOC baseball team included prime rib, twice baked potatoes, a vegetable medley blend, salad, and decadent apple caramel pie. The program included Chris Wood, vice president for Institutional Advancement; Dr. Marilyn Wienand, harpist; Mr. Kenney Moore, president of the MOC Society; Dr. J. William Byrd, president; and Dr. Burkette Raper, president emeritus. Also on the program was Ms. Tabatha Kennedy, a current student at Mount Olive College.

"My experience confirms that MOC cultivates transformation," Kennedy stated. "Each year I see how lives are changed inside and out through classes, ministries, and constant encouragement and support from the faculty, staff, and classmates. Each person connected to Mount Olive College has a task which they perform selflessly, always making the students their top priority transforming them, and enabling them to reach their greatest potential."

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 there were 539 Society members collectively contributing more than $2.1 million to Mount Olive College for the purpose of transforming education and transforming lives!

Left: Bob and Evelyn Shackleford talk with Tabatha Kennedy (center). Kennedy was one of the featured speakers at the MOC Society Gala.
Top: Dr. Charles Petty delivered a message of humor and motivation at the MOC Society Gala.
Right: Kenney Moore served as Master of Ceremonies at the Gala.

CROSSING THE EDUCATIONAL BRIDGE

Nationally the number of adult learners is on the rise. The reasoning is varied but most commonly adult students return to college because of the changing needs of the job market or family life transitions (marriage, divorce, or death).

This year alone, nearly 2,200 students at Mount Olive College's six locations throughout eastern North Carolina are considered non-traditional adult learners. Those students, with a median age of 31, will not only be seeking a college education, but also balancing full-time jobs and family responsibilities.

Betty Moore, a recent graduate of Mount Olive College at Washington, is a perfect example.

"There came a time after my husband's death, that my interest in achieving a bachelor's degree was renewed," Moore stated. "After obtaining information from several institutions including Mount Olive College at Washington, I concluded that MOC more closely met my needs."

Moore's needs included evening classes with other adult students; studying only one subject at a time; and location.

Nontraditional, working adult students like Moore are attracted by options that provide them with alternative ways to do "traditional" things. Mount Olive College at Washington has improved access to education for adults by offering flexible, one night a week programs that accommodate their complicated lifestyles. In addition to the time-condensed programs, the college also schedules courses in sequential order so the students know the next class needed will be available. Books are also ordered in advance and are ready and waiting for students at the start of each new course.

"It's all about packaging our programs and services to meet the needs of our students," states Dr. Evan Duff, director of MOC at Washington.

Just because students have passed the "traditional" age of going to college shouldn't mean they have burned their bridge to a degree. At age 70, Moore doesn't feel she's burned a bridge, but rather crossed one.

"It was with considerable pleasure that I recently placed a checkmark on that item (graduating college) in my dreams and goals notebook," Moore beamed.

Moore who graduated from MOC in August with a bachelor's degree in Management and Organizational Development has several other things on her to-do list, including pursuits in spirituality, health and fitness, family, friends, finances, and travel.

"My views and my life have been broadened by my educational experience at Mount Olive College," Moore concluded.

Moore lives between Bath and Belhaven. She is a member of Free Union FWB Church in Pinetown. She has two adult sons, Garland Moore, Jr. and Charles Moore. She has two grandchildren, three bonus grandchildren, and five bonus great-grandchildren.

For more information on the nontraditional programs at Mount Olive College at Washington, contact Dr. Evan Duff at <eduff@moc.edu> or call (252) 940-0146.

In today's competitive college environment, adult learners, often called nontraditional students, make up a large and growing segment of the population. Many of these students have special needs, including limited budgets, demanding professional workloads, and time constraints.

The search of the shepherds for the Babe of Bethlehem ended with the discovery of the Christ of Christmas. The angelic choir sang of peace and good will to all men. May your Christmas be a time of comfort in a troubled world. May your heart be cradled with the same joy that Mary must have known on that night that changed the world.

Merry Christmas

The OFWB Convention Executive Committee

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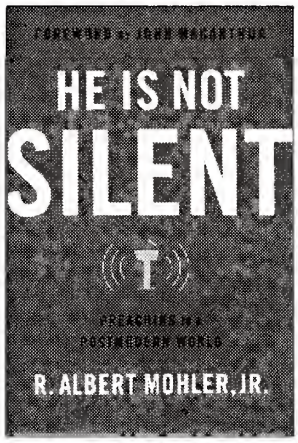
THE REALITY IS CLEAR:

Preaching—the practice of publicly expositing the Bible—has fallen on hard times. *He Is Not Silent* analyzes this decline of expository preaching and then goes on to argue, in a style both commanding and encouraging, that preaching must not continue to wane. Drawing from such passages as Deuteronomy 4 and Ezekiel 37, Dr. Mohler lays the groundwork for preaching, fans the flame on the glory of preaching, and issues the urgent call for preaching. In short, he portrays preaching as a confrontation with God.

This message is desperately needed yet not often heard. Whether you're concerned or enthused about the state of the church today, join Dr. Mohler as he examines preaching and why the church can't survive without it.



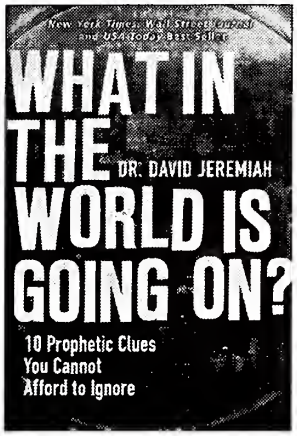
Retail: $22.99
Our price: $18.50

READ. EXPLAIN. REPEAT.

This, in a nutshell, is preaching. Sound too simple? Al Mohler, the president of one of the largest seminaries in the world, defines preaching using these three little words. Yet this rhythm is not what we find in many of our churches.

In *He Is Not Silent,* Mohler reveals the state of preaching today...

"Contemporary preaching suffers from a loss of confidence in the power of the Word...from an infatuation with technology...from an embarrassment before the biblical text...from an evacuation of biblical content...from a focus on felt needs...**from an absence of gospel...**"



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Never before have we read such jarring headlines, distressing news analyses, or dire predictions for our world. There are food shortages, record-high fuel prices, and natural disasters from volcanoes to cyclones. Longtime antagonists China and Japan announce a pledge of peace and friendship while a newly belligerent Russia makes pacts in the Middle East. The president of Iran claims Israel must be wiped off the map while world leaders sit by and say nothing.

When these kinds of stories continue to appear, we can't help but wonder...***what in the world is going on?***

Centuries ago, events such as these and much more were written about in the Bible—prophecies regarding the final days of Earth's history. In a coherent timeline that identifies ten end-of-time events—interpreted through the books of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Matthew, Revelation, and others—***What in the World Is Going On?*** makes Bible prophecy and the warning signs abundantly clear.

Scrupulously researched and organized, these warnings are useful only if we heed them. There's peace in knowing what to expect, and Dr. Jeremiah offers words of encouragement while also reminding us how to live in the meantime—**watch, work, and wait.**

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- How should we live in the end times?

Events unfolding in today's world are certainly unsettling, but they need not be confusing or frightening. Now you can know the meaning behind what you see in the daily news and understand what in the world is going on!

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LIFE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTED TO BLANCHE JOYNER

The Life Membership Award program was begun by the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary in the 1950s and since then, there have been many women honored on the state, district, and local levels. According to our *Manual of Methods* of the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary, the award is to honor outstanding members who exemplify the following traits: She must be an active OFWB member and active member of the Woman's Auxiliary, one who has given of herself and her talents untiringly to the cause of Christ through the Woman's Auxiliary and the OFWB Church, one who understands and appreciates the work of the Woman's Auxiliary at all levels, and a woman who has inspired others to greater Christian service. Such is the woman we come to honor today with a life Membership Award. She began attending auxiliary meetings in the 1950s and has been faithful in attendance. Her name is found frequently in the minutes for serving on the nominating committee, attending, at times as a delegate, at District and State Auxiliary Conventions. The Auxiliary traveled on several trips to the Williamsburg Pottery and to Raleigh and she always enjoyed these trips. Her name is also there for preparing and/or serving food at study courses, the Central Conference meetings, cooking cakes for Mount Olive College dinners, and benevolence meals where she is always so willing to prepare her delicious salads. She served for 30 years as our treasurer. Blanche Harris Joyner, we honor you today as we present a Life Membership Award to you.

Pictured is Blanche Joyner (center) and Committee members—Jean Averette (left) and May Pittman (right).

Your son, Mike prepared a write-up for you and it reads in part as follows:

Blanche Harris Joyner—A product of Pitt County by way of the community of Bruce, Belvoir Schools, and a childhood on the farm where Rock Springs Equestrian Center now stands, Blanche values her roots and heritage as a Pitt County girl. She was born the third of four children to Charlie and Viola Mozingo Harris on March 7, 1921. Being a "farm girl," Blanche learned early that a good day's work is essential to survival and success on the family farm. Her parents, tenant farmers trying desperately to survive in the depression era in the 1920s and 1930s, instilled in her the conservative values, the "waste not, want not" philosophy and the diligence that "a job worth doing is worth doing right." Blanche still lives those philosophies.

Blanche attended Belvoir Schools and was married to her long-time beau, Verlon Joyner, in December 1938. While he was in service, she worked various factory and retail jobs and assisted with the war effort and caring for family members. They maintained close contact with the family and were a source of moral support and encouragement to many of them. Blanche opened their home to care for both her own father and her father-in-law in periods of their failing health—all while still holding down a full-time job.

Blanche eventually settled into a position as bookkeeper with the A&P Tea Company, a grocery store chain, where she worked for 18 years, retiring in 1978.

Blanche is the quiet, conservative type, who usually likes to stay in the background. She has always been quietly passionate about her beliefs and values and this holds true for her church.

From her childhood orientation at Kings Crossroads FWB Church, until today, Blanche has served her church in her customary quiet, unassuming way, but

with a diligence and dedication, instilled in her from early on. Whether it is her famous coconut cakes for homecoming or the auction, or her willingness to help in the kitchen, Blanche believes in doing her part. Content to let others be in charge and in the forefront, she can always be counted on to lend a supporting hand.

She joined the First Free Will Baptist Church in Greenville in April 1953 when it was the only Free Will Baptist Church in Greenville and remained supportive as the Church progressed throughout its history. From Forbes Street to Charles Boulevard, Blanche has maintained her quiet, supportive, faithful role. The Church has always been a mainstay in her life, and her family and friends who embody the Church are her most important social outlet.

Blanche enjoys a healthy retirement and values her continuing relationship with her family—Mike and wife, Gail; grandchildren Kim Anthony and husband Stephen, Kelly, Ashleigh, and great-grandchildren, Taylor and Emily Anthony, all who reside in Greenville.

Blanche exemplifies a life of diligent work, conservative life-style and biblical principles and values. Blanche, you have truly earned this Life Award and we present it to you with great pleasure.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY SUNDAY OBSERVED

October 12, 2008 was observed as Woman's Auxiliary Sunday in the First Free Will Baptist Church in Greenville pastored by the Rev. Michael Bryan. The women filled all positions in the service. Ushers were Joyce Adams, Sue Grady, Judy Bryant and Doris Nobles.

Ann Taylor, Program Chairwoman, introduced the program, giving information about the Woman's Auxiliary and gave the invocation. This was followed by Faye Allen, president, who gave the welcome and announcements.

A special presentation of a Life Membership Award was presented to Blanche H. Joyner by May Pittman, Missions Chairwoman.

Kathy Hayes

Jean Averette, Study Course Chairwoman, read the Scripture from Proverbs 31:10–11 and Janie Leggett led in prayer. The choir was filled with auxiliary women who sang "Jesus Saves." Ann Taylor then introduced the speaker for the service, Kathy Hayes, member of Daniels Chapel Church, and vice-president of the Central Woman's Auxiliary Conference. Kathy is a teacher at Hunt High School in Wilson County and an adjunct English Instructor at Barton College, is married and the mother of 3 teenagers. Her topic was "A Spiritual Competency Test" and she used Scripture from Galatians 5:22–23: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." As she compared each fruit with a spiritual competency test, she questioned the congregation with, "Would you pass this test?" It was agreed that many of us would probably fail most of these tests. She closed with prayer and Nettie Woodall, vice-president, gave the benediction.

It was a blessed day as the women prepared and gave of themselves to the lord for this service. All women in the congregation were encouraged to become members of the Auxiliary.

"O send out thy light and thy truth"
(Psalm 43:3a)

GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME

Year 2008 is coming to a close and again Camp Vandemere's ministry has been blessed with many important happenings and support through many resources. Here are a few of the blessings that the Lord has given to the Camp to help further the mission set some 40 years ago when the Camp began.

The board has been working diligently to retire the existing debt through donations and regularly scheduled budget payments. During the business session of the January board meeting, a motion was made to transfer money from the Church Finance Disaster Savings Fund to pay off the remaining loan balance. Also included in that motion was a clause to deposit the budgeted amount of the loan payment to the Disaster Savings Fund on a monthly basis to bring that account back to where it was at the time of the withdrawal. As of March 30, 2008, Camp Vandemere is debt free. The Lord keeps right on blessing.

Another blessing that was realized during the first part of 2008 was the opportunity that the board had to help our manager, the Reverend Wesley Taylor, with educational expenses involved in his Holy Land trip. Unanimously, the board approved an additional amount of educational allowance to help with approximately half of the expense that was involved in Brother Wesley's once in a lifetime experience.

With the help of the Pamlico County Committee of 100, a group of UNC-Chapel Hill women rowers came to Camp Vandemere during March of this year to train on the waters surrounding the camp. Approximately 55 rowers and instructors stayed on site for training and utilized all facilities, including the chance to attend an evening worship service led by Brother Wesley.

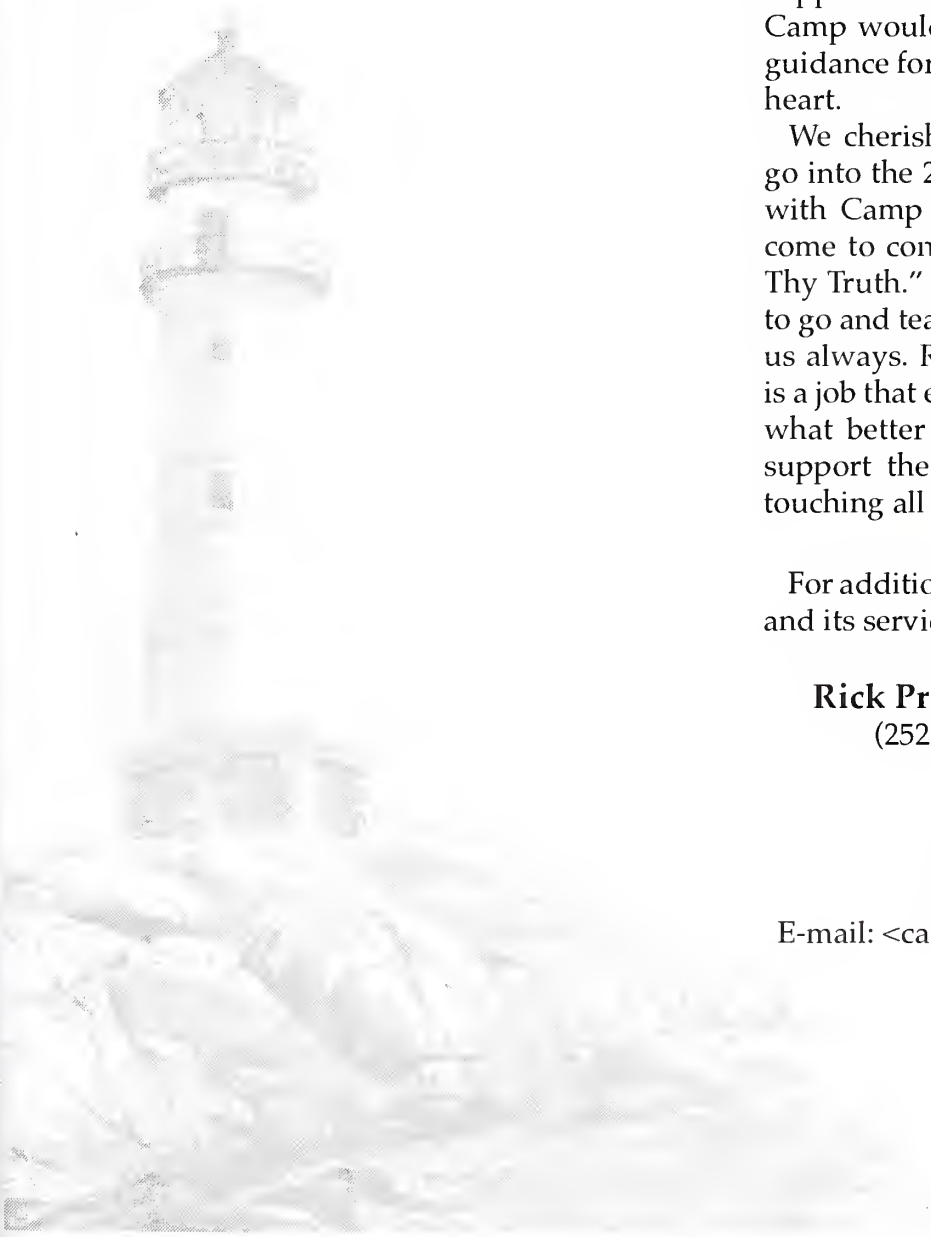
Once again, the camp had the opportunity to host a number of weeks of Summer Youth Camp and one Woman's Auxiliary Week. Over 550 youth and ladies had the chance to enjoy the spiritual renewal that one can receive from the camp environment. Under the direction of many dedicated directors and counselors, God prevailed in many campers' lives by instilling the message through study, song, and fellowship. There are not enough words to express the board's appreciation to everyone involved to make our summer camping season a huge success. Without you, the camp would not be able to operate and carry out the mission set forth some 40 years ago when Camp Vandemere started out.

Through a generous donation received this year, the camp was able to upgrade the RV sites down by the fishing pier. The existing eight sites, along with two newly created lots, have been made into full hook up spaces. They now include water, sewer and electrical options. This gives the camp a total of 20 full hook up RV sites for the enjoyment of year round camping with no manual waste disposal.

Twenty 5 foot picnic tables were donated for each RV site.

Our Annual Singing by the River activities were held Friday evening and Saturday, October 17 and 18. Inclement weather did not hold back the faithful supporters of Camp Vandemere. Approximately 75 attended Friday night's program with around 170 coming down to the camp on Saturday. Thanks go out to everyone who made this annual event a success.

Our Annual Fishing Tournament was held on Friday evening and Saturday, November 7 and 8. Approximately 30 fishermen participated in this event. Everyone had a great time of fellowship, and this year a group of adults and youth stayed on site to fish and crab off of the pier and enjoy the facilities of the camp.



Sunday Morning Worship Services have been started at the Camp over the last four months. If you are in the area, please stop by and worship with us through song, prayer, and the Word.

At the April Board Meeting, Brother Wesley gave his decision to resign as Camp Manager, giving the reason that he felt that now is the transition time for a new manager to take God's camp to the next level. Thanks go out to Wesley and his family for the years of service at Camp Vandemere. Your fervent prayers and support are requested during the upcoming months as the board goes forward in securing a new manager that will continue the work at hand.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Camp's ministry. Without you, the Camp would not be able to supply the needed guidance for a lot of young people and young at heart.

We cherish your prayers and support as we go into the 2009. God has not stopped working with Camp Vandemere and the best is yet to come to continue to "Send Out Thy Light and Thy Truth." He charges us in Matthew 28:19–20 to go and teach in His name and He will be with us always. Reaching our people, God's people, is a job that each of us need to be mindful of and what better way to help that to promote and support the ministry of Camp Vandemere in touching all ages with His presence.

For additional information regarding the camp and its services, please contact:

Rick Price, Interim Camp Manager
(252) 745-3171 or (252) 670-9775

Camp Vandemere
215 Third Street
Vandemere, NC, 28587
E-mail: <campvandemere@embarqmail.com>

Footprints convey that someone has gone before us.
Leaving a marked way;
And remind us that we also can leave a markd way
For those who come after us.

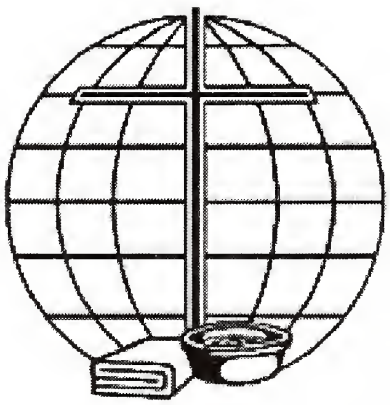
A RISING TIDE FOR THE WORK OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

W. Burkette Raper President

It has been said that a rising tide lifts all ships. It is the goal of the North Carolina Foundation For Christian Ministries to be that kind of tide for Original Free Will Baptists—to lift all of our churches and ministries to a higher level of excellence and effectiveness in their work. The Foundation seeks to achieve this goal through scholarships for those called to Christian ministry and the building of endowments for our Convention ministries, churches and related work.

A Rising Tide for the Ministry

The Gospel has not changed—nor will it change—but the effective manner and methods of presenting the Gospel to a changing world have changed. In the late 19th century and early 20th century, Original Free Will Baptists experienced rapid growth, but today we are having as many churches to celebrate their centennial as we are planting new churches. Notwithstanding church facilities that were undreamed of by our parents and grandparents, Original Free Will Baptists are barely maintaining our membership; and even in areas of rapid growth in population, some churches are experiencing a decline in membership. Our *Articles of Faith* have not changed, so what restrains our growth, and even threatens our survival?



Many of the old methods have lost their effectiveness. For example, a century ago, church membership grew primarily through "revivals," extended days of preaching lasting one or more weeks. Today, many so-called revivals are like a bucket with holes—they draw little water. Preaching will always be an important means of proclaiming the Gospel; but in today's world, churches do not grow simply

through preaching, regardless of how eloquent the preaching might be. The successful pastor in the 21st century must also be a knowledgeable teacher, an effective counselor, a good administrator and one who possesses strong qualities of leadership that unite people rather than cause conflict and division.

In addition to constructively serving his church membership, the pastor needs to be able to build good relations and to effectively communicate the Gospel to the larger community. The logo of Original Free Will Baptists is a globe—a picture of the earth with its billions of people, most of whom do not embrace the Christian faith. In addition to a globe, our logo includes the Cross, along with a basin and a towel, symbols of Christ's call to us to be His servants and messengers. So, in awe, we have to ask: "How prepared are we, as ministers of Christ, to communicate the Gospel, which is the power of God for abundant life in this world and eternal life in the world to come?

An Open Door of Opportunity

The directors of the Foundation believes that God gives to everyone called to Christian ministries the potential to fulfill their calling, but it is up to those called to properly equip themselves for a ministry worthy of God. We dare not offer to God anything less than the best we are capable of becoming. In his letter to the church at Ephesus, the Apostle Paul wrote: "I... beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called" (Ephesians 4:1, and following verses). Through helping our pastors equip themselves for new levels of excellence and effectiveness in the 21st century, the Foundation seeks to raise the tide that will enable Original Free Will Baptists in becoming the people God has called us to be and to fulfill the mission He has given us.

While the qualities necessary for effective pastoral services cannot be achieved solely through education, neither can they be fully acquired apart from education. For this reason, a major goal of the Foundation is to help remove the financial barrier for ministers in equipping themselves for excellence and effectiveness in Christian ministry.

Through fall semester 2008, the Foundation has provided scholarships in the total amount of $39,453 for ministers—licensed and ordained—who are seeking to equip themselves for the kind of services our churches need and deserve. Of this amount, $31,605 has been through gifts to the Foundation "Scholarship Fund For Christian Ministry"; the balance of $7,848 has come from endowed funds established with the Foundation.

A primary objective of the Foundation is to help assure that those called to Christian ministry in any work of Original Free Will Baptists—not only pastors but other vocations in the church—have an opportunity to adequately equip themselves to fulfill their calling. To this end, the Board of Directors has approved a goal of $1,000,000 in endowed funds to provide scholarships for those who wish to prepare for the kind of ministry our church needs to fulfill its purpose for being. An endowment in this amount is projected to yield $50,000 annually.

In addition to the Foundation, many colleges and divinity schools have generous programs in financial aid for ministers. Also, several of our conferences are establishing programs of assistance for the education of their ministers. The door of opportunity is now open for those who have the vision and commitment to study to show themselves approved unto God, "workmen who need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of Truth" (see 2 Timothy 2:15).

MAY'S CHAPEL CHURCH NEWS

The Lord has richly blessed May's Chapel Original FWB Church over the past year. We completed and dedicated the Nellie Outlaw Family Life Center. This 6,000 square foot building includes: a large general purpose room complete with stage and storage rooms, a fully appointed kitchen with island, service window, large vestibule with ceramic floors, and a drive through portico. The building was named for Nellie Gray Outlaw, a charter member who died in May. Mrs. Nellie's mother and stepfather established the church, and she was active there all her life. She played the piano for over 75 years and donated the property where the building is built.

On Sunday, August 24, 2008, May's Chapel celebrated two special occasions. Pastor Jeff Daughtry held a dedication service to dedicate Andrew and Jordan Flora to God. Pictured

with them are the children's mother, Heather Flora and their grandparents, James and Barbara Dills.

After the dedication service, May's Chapel rejoiced in the baptism of fourteen souls who were saved over the summer. Some received Christ through our worship services; others accepted Him at Cragmont this summer or through our youth program under the direction of youth pastor, Kelvin Coates. The Rev. Terry Coates was privileged to baptize his daughter, Brittany Coates, and four of his nieces and nephews: Lee Coates, Dillon Coates, Savannah Morgan and Madelyn Coates. Afterwards, the Rev. Daughtry baptized: David and Pearl Grant, Gregory, Dontay, Chris and La'Tesha Boseman, Elizabeth Vaughan, and Jackson and Kelsey Hayes.

Homecoming was celebrated the fourth Sunday in September with a packed sanctuary. It was wonderful to welcome back family and friends who had moved on to other areas. Pastor Jeff gave the morning message and youth pastor, Kelvin Coates led the memorial service, honoring the memories or two of our loved ones who went to be with the Lord this year. May's Chapel deeply misses these members: Nellie Outlaw and Hamp Best. After the morning worship service we enjoyed wonderful food and fellowship in our Nellie Outlaw Family Life Center.

The light that night from Bethlehem Star
ordained from very far

Through twenty centuries redeeming our will, time, and space
He calls through the light of His grace.

— Scotty McCoy —

CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

PIEDMONT YOUTH RALLY

The Piedmont Youth Rally was held at Christ Church, Stokesdale on Saturday, October 11, 2008. Churches that came to participate were: Wayside Tabernacle, Thomasville; Friendly Chapel, Greensboro; and Northside, Asheboro. The children were divided by age groups (5–8), (9–12), (13+). The youngest competed to see who could recite the most Bible verses. The other groups had to look up Bible verses and read them. The quickest ones to look the verses up won. First place got a trophy and second place got a red ribbon. Various people sang for the Lord, testified, and the Rev. David Atkins preached a sermon. Pat Hicks read some Bible verses and told about "Patches and the Jesus Vitamins." The Hoppers also did a puppet skit. Following church activities, pizza was served for lunch.

Piedmont Youth Rally participants held at Christ Church, Stokesdale, NC

Piedmont Youth Rally First and Second place winners from all age groups.

PIEDMONT CONFERENCE OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

The Piedmont Conference was held at Elwood Lane Free Will Baptist Church, Kannapolis, NC on Saturday October 25, 2008. The Executive Board and Ordaining Council Meetings were held at 9 A.M.

At 10 A.M. the Rev. David Atkins called the conference to order and welcomed the host, pastor of Elwood Lane, the Rev. David Parrish. A devotion was read by Dr. Ronnie Aycock, using Scripture from Luke 10:25–37 and Psalm 142:4.

The Rev. Tom Parrish called the roll of ministers. Brother Wayne hicks called the roll of churches and presented a banner to Elwood Lane Church for the most present. The Rev. Carlee Stallard, treasurer, read the treasurer's report. Reports from the Children's Home, Sunday School Board, and Home Missions were presented.

Worship hour at 11 A.M. was led by the Rev. David Parrish of Elwood Lane Church. He read and spoke about Psalm 1. He gave the congregation an opportunity to give God a testimony of praise. God has done a lot of great things in the lives of many people. It was a heart moving service that gave honor and praise to God. We can never praise God enough for what He has done for us.

Following the service, the host church provided a delicious lunch of chicken, barbecue, vegetables, soups, and desserts. Elwood Lane Church has a lot of excellent cooks. They always have a great meal and they are a warm and friendly, godly church. We thank God for our Conference. It is always good to fellowship with God's people.

Piedmont Conference moderator: the Rev. David Atkins and Piedmont Conference treasurer: the Rev. Carlee Stallard.

Conference participant wearing a Elwood Lane FWB t-shirt and a flashing light "I Love Jesus" hat.

The Rev. Claude Garrett and his wife Naomi. He celebrated his 92nd birthday at the Piedmont Conference.

PASTOR APPRECIATION

On Sunday, October 12, 2008 the church gave the Rev. David and Mrs. Janice Atkins an appreciation lunch. There was a lot of good food served: barbecue, chicken, vegetables, desserts, and a Pastor Appreciation cake for Mr. David's 29 years of being pastor of Christ Church. We all love and appreciate everything that he and his wife, Janice, do for our church. Thank you Lord for great pastors like Mr. David.

SPECIAL DAY AT DALY'S CHAPEL CHURCH

On October 26, 2008 at 10 A.M. the services at Daly's Chapel, Lagrange, NC started with a very inspiring Sunday School lesson given by Ilene Johnson. The worship service began at 11 A.M. by the ringing of the church bell. The Rev. Ed Thornton delivered a sermon to the newly elected deacons, their wives, and the congregation of duties, responsibilities, and our obedience to do God's work. The five newly elected deacons are Johnny Johnson, wife Ilene; John Barrow, wife Lida; William Cruse, wife Marjorie; Ray Johnson, wife Janet; and Fountain Eubank, wife Betty. The service concluded by giving them the right hand of acceptance and our promise to pray for each of them. Pictured left to right are: Johnny Johnson, John Barrow, Fountain Eubank, Ray Johnson, And William Cruse.

LITTLE CREEK CHURCH NEWS

Pictured at right are members of the Little Creek Senior Saints. The meeting is held every third Wednesday at 11 A.M. Members bring a sandwich for lunch and drinks and desserts are provided. They enjoy the fellowship, devotion, music, fun time, and items of interest. Birthdays and anniversaries are recognized. A door prize is drawn for a lucky winner. Please feel free to join us.

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FIRST CHURCH, KINSTON, NC, is is seeking a part-time youth pastor/leader. If interested, please contact: Vickie Wade at (252) 522-5733 or (252) 268-1123.

PREPARING FOR THE STORM

by Donald Fader

Last month we talked about the advantages of personal debt reduction as an effective means of preparing yourself for an economy that that is looking weaker each month. Remember, there is very little impact that we can have on the national economy. We need to spend our time and energy recession proofing our own financial situation. Debt reduction and building reserves present the clearest path to insulating your family from the dangers created by an economic downturn.

Economic downturns and recessions have been a regular event in the United States since the country was founded. While the Revolutionary War was fought to gain our independence, gaining economic freedom was also on the minds of our founding fathers. Taxation without representation was a battle cry for those patriots experiencing the economic hardships brought on by laws such as England's Townshend Act. By most counts the United States is heading into its 18th depression/recession since the financial panic of 1797 and the 10th during the past 100 years or about one every 10 years.

Financial Planning: A Biblical Perspective

Two prominent results of a recession is a decline in income and economic activity along with a rise in unemployment. These events are certainly interrelated and it stands to reason that when a person loses his or her job their income goes down and they are unable to maintain their purchasing level leading to reduced economic activity. Confidentially, I have now told you more than I know about the economy so let me get back to the point of the article.

Our last recession occurred in 2000–2001 and was hardly noticeable because many Americans were able to tap the equity in their homes to see them through the downturn. Cheap money, lax lending standards, and rising home prices made cash available in the form of home mortgages and the country took advantage of this in droves. Today we are facing declining home values and very strict lending policies so Americans cannot count on their home to see them through this downturn.

I am reminded of the story in Nehemiah 5:2–5:

For there were that said, We, our sons, and our daughters, are many: therefore we take up corn for them, that we may eat, and live. Some also there were that said, We have mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses, that we might buy corn, because of the dearth. There were also that said, We have borrowed money for the king's tribute, and that upon our lands and vineyards. Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children: and, lo, we bring into bondage our sons and our daughters to be servants, and some of our daughters are brought unto bondage already: neither is it in our power to redeem them; for other men have our lands and vineyards.

This is a chilling reminder from the pages of the Old Testament about living on the edge. So many of the factors surrounding recessions are simply out of our control. We have very little influence over the value of our homes, the willingness of banks to lend, and whether we will have a job next week. So what can we do? We must assume control of our own financial house and to that we need to reduce debt and increase savings.

We must be responsible stewards of what God has entrusted to us. God has granted us the resources we need to be successful and live a victorious life. Debt is a burden that most of us bear at sometime during our lives. Properly used it is a tool and when used improperly it becomes our master. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6:24:

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

One of the best gifts we can give our family this Christmas is one that won't fit under the tree. It is the confidence and assurance that your financial house is in order. Imagine, the peace that comes from knowing whatever this financial storm may bring you have built your house upon the rock.

Christmas Greetings

FROM THE

North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....

In him was life; and the life was the light of men....

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us; and we beheld His glory, the glory as the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

(John 1:1, 4, 5)

A.D. 2005

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